



AGAWAM *Advertiser-News*

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Volume XIX Number 50

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

December 12, 1996



Cement Plant & Donut Shop Get OK For Special Permits From ZBA

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At its Thursday, December 5th meeting, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) unanimously approved applications for a special permit for a donut shop in Feeding Hills Center and for a concrete batching plant off Shoemaker Lane.

Dunkin' Donuts owner John Salema said he was happy with the board's decision to allow him to operate a drive-up window when his new donut shop opens on Springfield Street next summer.

Salema is the first restaurant owner to win approval of a special permit to operate a drive-up window in the two years since a zoning change made 50 parking places a requirement for a drive-up window.

Salema said he plans to begin construction of the new Dunkin' Donuts at 1358 Springfield Street in the spring.

Salema plans to move from his current location in the Crossroads Shops to the site originally proposed as a McDonald's drive-thru restaurant two years ago. Unable to satisfy the 50 parking places requirement, McDonald's abandoned the idea of locating a restaurant on the site adjacent to the

Pride Gas Station and Convenience Store.

But, there could be something of a restaurant version of musical chairs when Dunkin' Donuts takes over the site originally considered by McDonald's. No special permit would be required for McDonald's or any other fast food restaurant to locate at Feeding Hills Center and operate a drive-up window once the donut shop vacates its rented quarters at the Crossroads.

ZBA Chairman Ronald Hebert said the fact that a drive-up window is already approved for the present site of Dunkin' Donuts makes it an attractive property for a fast food franchise.

Drive-Up Window Is "Grandfathered"...

Hebert said the drive-up window in the Crossroads building is "grandfathered" to the zoning regulations in effect prior to the 50 parking spots requirement for a two-year period. If, after two years, no one has used the location for a drive-thru restaurant, the newer, more stringent zoning would become effective requiring 50 parking spots and a special permit.

SEE SPECIAL PERMITS - Page 2...

Full-Time Educator Hired By School Dept. As Curriculum Chief

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Agawam's first director of Curriculum and Instruction is a 16-year veteran of the East Longmeadow School System.

Mary Czajkowski will leave her post teaching health, writing curriculum, and working on developing the state curriculum frameworks to begin her new job in Agawam on December 23rd.

Committees of teachers and school administrators screened 18 applications, conducted interviews, and recommended the final candidates to be interviewed by School Superintendent Dr. Frank Ameruso and Associate Superintendent Donald Charest.

"Not only was Mary Czajkowski the most qualified, she presented to us the background knowledge and skills mixed with experience we were looking for. She has that extra dimension that will make her very successful here; she has tremendous ability to organize things and people," Ameruso said.

SEE CURRICULUM - Page 2...

Good Shopping At Church Holiday Bazaars



LOCAL CHURCHES take full advantage of the holiday season each year with Christmas Bazaars and craft fairs. In photo left, Sandy Webster and Eloise Anderson were selling household items at the St. Theresa's Church Bazaar; In photo right, the Annual Jingle Valley Fair was held at the Agawam First Baptist Church. Pictured are Sharon Hodge and Hope Paradysz. RELATED PHOTOS INSIDE. Advertiser

News photos by Jack Devine.

Liquor Stores Can Open On Sundays In Dec.
The Agawam Liquor Licensing Commission has voted to allow liquor stores in the community to open on the next three Sundays (December 14th, 21st, and 28th) for the holiday season.

CURRICULUM - from Page 1...

Ameruso said he and Miss Czajkowski have already discussed the immediate tasks facing her when she occupies her new office in the School Department's main office.

The first step will be finding out where the curriculum stands in light of the work that's already been done; the next step will be getting to know the curriculum coordinators, the liaison teachers, and the elementary specialists she'll be working with; and the final step will be setting a course of action for getting a written curriculum plan to the School Committee within the next few months, Ameruso said.

"This position is one of the most important in the School Department," Ameruso said. "The curriculum reflects what the children need to know to succeed as citizens. As the director of curriculum, she'll be the linchpin linking people between the different levels so that we're all pulling in the same direction."

With considerable curriculum work already completed at the Pre-K-6 level, Miss Czajkowski will begin by concentrating her efforts at the secondary level, Ameruso said.

Transition From Present Job To New Job...

Miss Czajkowski said her transition from her present job to overseeing curriculum development and implementation in Agawam will be aided by her work on the state level assisting school districts to align their curricula with the state frameworks.

"I feel the timing of this appointment at this point in my career is critical and very much in tune with what's happening with the state frameworks," Miss Czajkowski said. "With respect to Agawam, I'm ready to move forward with reviewing and rewriting the curriculum."

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1996 at 6:30 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of RIVERSIDE PARK ENTERPRISES, INC. which is seeking a SPECIAL PERMIT in accordance with

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
BOARD OF APPEALS**

Section 180-49 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a Loop Roller Coaster at the premises identified as 1623 MAIN STREET.

LEGAL NOTICE

Ronald Hebert
Chairman

Published: December 12, 1996

SPECIAL PERMITS - from Page 1...

Salema said he needed to move to a larger store in order to offer the company's new line of bagels.

Salema said moving his donut shop to a new location would not increase traffic at Feeding Hills Center. Traffic will be allowed to make both right and left hand turns onto Springfield Street, and an access road will run from the donut shop across the Pride Station site onto North Westfield Street.

In its second decision Thursday evening, the ZBA granted a special permit to Dauphinais & Sons of Springfield to construct a concrete batching plant on the site adjacent to the proposed Berkshire Power project on Moylan Lane.

ZBA members said they were pleased that the revised site plan adequately addressed the concerns over noise, dust, and safety that had been raised at earlier public hearings by neighbors of the site and by opponents of Berkshire Power.

After touring a concrete batching plant similar to the one proposed here that is owned and operated by Dauphinais in Springfield, ZBA member Doreen Prouty said, "I was impressed with the way the Springfield facility was maintained."

Hebert said the revised site plan showing a building completely enclosing the concrete making machinery would minimize any noise or dust associated with the plant.

The materials used in making concrete will be stored in the building and the trucks will be loaded with concrete material and water inside the building. Any dust associated with the making of concrete will be contained within the building.

"After what we've seen on our site visit, I think this operation would be a safe operation for that area," Hebert said.

Among the conditions being imposed by the board of appeals, Dauphinais must instruct the truck drivers to use Silver Street rather than Shoemaker Lane as their route to and from the plant.

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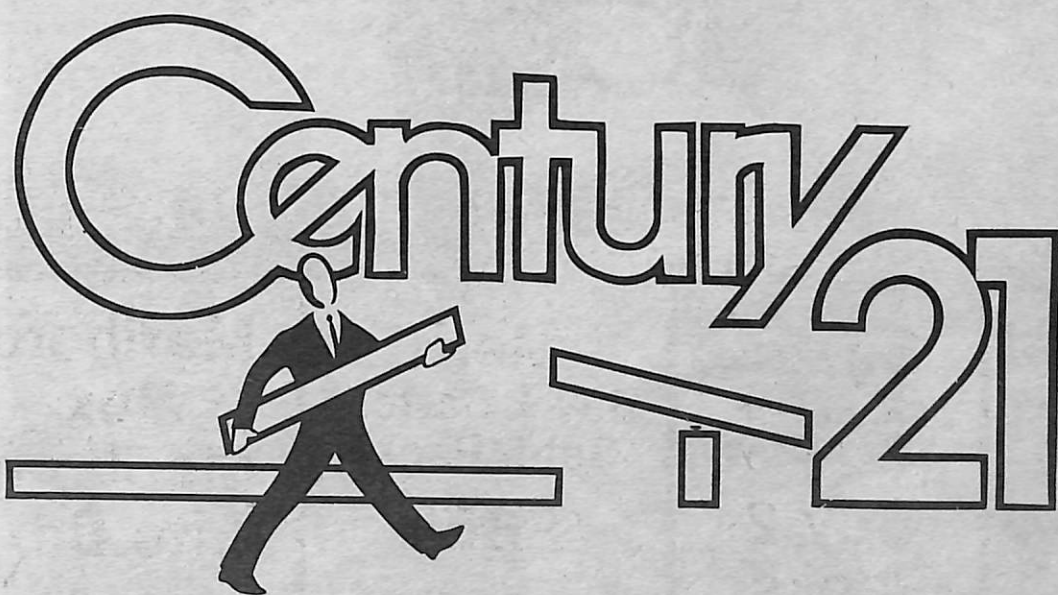
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(Plus Tax)

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(On Select
Styles Only)

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Packs,
Get 1
FREE

Merit

Buy 1 Carton,
Get 5 Packs

FREE

Merit Box
Merit U.L. Box
Merit 100
Only

Marlboro Box Marlboro Lite Box

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On 2-Pack
Purchase

Promotional Costs Paid For
By Cigarette Manufacturers

Surgeon General's Warning:
Cigarette Smoke Contains
Carbon Monoxide

Happy Thanksgiving From Don & His Staff



Letters To The Editor

Mayor Applauded For Veto Of Special Attorney

To The Editor:

At the beginning, the intentions of some councilors who voted in favor of hiring an attorney was to protect the council from the allegations of two individuals. Now I see that those same councilors want to turn around and use the taxpayers' money, \$200 per hour, to hire a lawyer to conduct an investigation against the council, the Mayor, and his administration. I just don't understand what they are trying to do.

I am glad that the Mayor vetoed the hiring of an attorney to look into the allegations, misuse of funds, by the council and the administration. This is nothing but a waste of our hard-earned tax dollars for a political vendetta against the Mayor and they know it.

The Mayor has had the political courage to veto, and I hope you councilors support him and show that you care about our tax dollars and not continue to play the political game of a very few individuals who dislike the Mayor with a passion and try everything to hurt and embarrass him politically.

The people of Agawam are smart and see the truth. I also hope the councilors see the reasons behind this scheme and stop this witch hunt against our town. I applaud the Mayor referring this case to the District Attorney. He has no problem with this because he knows the Inspector General has assured him that there was nothing illegal.

I thank-you, Mayor Johnson, for all the excellent work that you have done for our community. Please don't let those few individuals who have no credibility at all interfere with our town business. I'm surprised some councilors have forgotten the oath they took when they were

elected, and that was "to work in the best interest of the Town of Agawam."

This does not reflect in their actions and allowing themselves to be influenced by a few individuals that have their own agenda. Let's stop this anti-Mayor campaign and work to make Agawam a better town as it rightly should be.

Set your goals for the future. That future is cooperation with your Mayor and fellow councilors.

Jessie D. Fuller
Former Council President
School Committee, 12 Years

A School Supply Store At AHS Would Be Beneficial

To The Editor:

It would be very beneficial to the students as well as parents to have a school supply store in the Agawam High School. The supply store could be used as a business training activity to get students more ready for the business world.

For an example, when a teacher tells a student to come the next day with a three-ring binder notebook and the student doesn't come the next day with a three-ring binder notebook, the student might be likely to get a detention when (by chance) the student truly wasn't able to get a ride or chance to get what was needed.

But if the Agawam High School had the school supply store, the students could, in between classes, before, or even after school, stop by the AHS school supply store and get the materials that they need for school. Even by chance if the student was too lazy to get what was needed for class, there would be no excuse (besides the fact of having no money) to not have what was needed for class.

Even if the student uses the excuse of having no money, the individual teachers could look into that. The students won't be the only ones benefiting from the AHS supply store. The school could benefit by minimum profit. Not only will the students and the AHS benefit, but also the parents of AHS students.

Parents would be grateful once they find out they don't have to go running around trying to search for what the teachers assign the students to have and by chance the local stores don't have these school materials.

Sincerely,
Jane Santucci
Feeding Hills

Animal Control Officer Offers More Key Info For Dog Owners

Section 96-10. Quarantine of dogs that bite.

Any dog which bites a person shall be quarantined for 10 days if ordered by the Inspector of Animals. During quarantine, the dog shall be securely confined and kept from contact with any other animal. At the discretion of the Inspector of Animals, the quarantine may be on the premises of the owner. If the Inspector of Animals requires other confinement, the owner shall surrender the animal for the quarantine period to an animal shelter or shall at his own expense place it in a veterinary hospital.

Section 96-11. Animals suspected of being rabid.

No police officer or other person shall kill, or cause to be killed, any animal suspected of being rabid, except after the animal has been placed in quarantine and the diagnosis of rabies made by a licensed veterinarian. If a veterinarian diagnoses rabies in an animal in quarantine, then the animal shall be humanely killed and the head of such animal sent to a laboratory for pathological examination and confirmation of diagnosis.

Section 96-12. Hindering enforcement prohibited.

Any Dog Officer shall have police powers in the enforcement of this chapter, and no person shall interfere with, hinder, molest or abuse any Dog Officer in the exercise of such powers.

Section 96-13. Violations and penalties. (Amended 8-7-1989 by TOR-89-13)

A. A violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punished by a fine of \$25 for a first offense, \$50 for a second offense, and \$300 for a third or subsequent offense occurring in any 12-month period. This penalty shall be assessed notwithstanding any other penalty or fine set forth elsewhere in the Town Code. Each day that any violation exists shall constitute a separate violation under this provision. All fines and penalties shall be paid into the treasury of the Town of Agawam. (Amended 8-7-1995 by TOR-95-5)

B. The Dog Officer shall be charged with the enforcement of this chapter and shall issue a notice of violation to any offender of this chapter.

Best local news!

Winter Parking Rules Must Be Noted By Townspeople Says Agawam DPW

The Agawam Department of Public Works wishes to advise residents of the ordinances regulating on-street winter parking between November 15th and April 15th.

The Department of Public Works has been empowered to declare on-street parking bans for the purpose of snow and ice removal and to tow any vehicles parked on streets in violation of these bans. Any person whose vehicle is removed is responsible for the cost of towing and storage and is subject to an additional fine in the amount of \$25.

It is the intent of the Department of Public Works to declare bans against any on-street parking whenever a snowstorm of plowable magnitude is forecast. Residents should tune to local radio and television stations or the Community Bulletin Board on Cable TV Channel 5 for

announcements of bans.

In order for the Department to efficiently and effectively clear snow, it is important that no vehicles be parked on the streets. Parked vehicles result in ridges of snow and ice that reduce the travelled width of the roadway and endanger the public. Costly repaving is required to clear the residue. Residents should be forewarned that the Department will remove vehicles violating any parking ban.

Residents are also advised that it is their responsibility to remove snow and control ice on the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 24 hours of the end of a storm. The Department of Public Works is only empowered to plow sidewalks on major streets where children are required to walk to school.

Check our classified pages today!



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By
COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

RESCHEDULED DUE TO SNOWSTORM

Sunday, December 15th

"Breakfast With Santa"

At AHS, 760 Cooper St., Agawam

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

(sponsored by Agawam Jr. Women's Club)

Canned good donation appreciated

Monday, December 16th

Meeting of the West Spfld./

Agawam La Leche League

At Grace Lutheran Church,

West Springfield

Call 736-3238 for more information

Monday, December 16th

Meeting of the Agawam

Junior High School PTO

At the Jr. High cafeteria

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17th

Agawam Junior Women's Club

Meeting & Christmas Gift Swap

At Captain Charles Leonard House

7:30 p.m.

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Senator Melconian Sponsors Genetic Testing Privacy

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has filed legislation for the 1997-98 legislative session which would prohibit insurers from using the fact of genetic testing or genetic information in determining insurance coverage for health, disability, or life insurance.

In 1994, researchers found one of the many genes that might influence the development of breast cancer. Although the gene, known as BRCA1, is present in everyone, different forms of the gene could give a possible indication as to the likelihood of a woman developing breast cancer.

A woman with a "mutant" gene has an increased likelihood of contracting breast cancer sometime in her lifetime, but it is uncertain as to the amount of risk. Currently, there is no treatment for a woman who tests positive for the defective gene.

Since the genetic test is not yet a reliable indication of which women will get breast cancer or when they will contract the disease, Melconian's bill will protect the privacy of genetic testing or information, and would prohibit discrimination by insurers and employers based on this information.

"Genetic testing is not yet a reliable indicator of the likelihood of developing breast cancer," Melconian said. "Since there is no current treatment for a woman with a defective gene, it is unfair to discriminate against them and discourage them from taking a potentially important test."

"The testing is so new and much more needs to be learned before genetic testing can be used as a conclusive exam as to which women will contract the disease," she continued. "But with continued research, genetic testing could become a lifesaver to many women."

Melconian's legislation will be referred to a committee when the new session convenes in January.

Townfolk turn our pages every week!

Agawam Obituaries

Mary Lou Sgueglia

Mary Lou (Dunlap) Sgueglia, 55, of 69 Forest Hill Road, Feeding Hills, a teacher at the Middle School, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She taught in the town schools for 20 years, starting in 1976. She retired from the Middle School in June. She served on the school board's science committees.

Born and schooled in Rutland, Vermont, she was a 1962 graduate of Castleton (VT) State College.

She moved here that year. She was a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

She was active in the town's Parent-Teacher Organization. She summered in Dennisport.

She leaves her husband, Stephen A. Sgueglia; three sons, Stephen C. of East Longmeadow, and Anthony R and David E. of Feeding Hills; a daughter, Lisa M. Sheehan of Feeding Hills; a brother, Edward R. of Poultney, Vermont; a sister, Nancy Ruby of Fairhaven, Vermont, and five grandchildren.

The funeral was at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, 01089.

David E. Peet, Jr.

David E. Peet, Jr., 43, of Belden Court, Agawam, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a truck driver and belonged to Teamsters Union Local 404 in Springfield for 17 years. He worked first for Maislin Trucking Co., and retired from St. Johnsbury Trucking Co. in 1992.

Born in Springfield, he lived in the city most of his life before moving to Agawam this year.

He leaves a daughter, Colleen C. Peet of Springfield; his mother, Cynthia (Carr) Peet, with whom he lived; two brothers, Charles H. of Monson, and William A. Springfield; two sisters, Roberta J. Fronrath of Springfield, and Rebecca Lagasse of Blandford; and a granddaughter.

A graveside service was conducted at Hillcrest Park Cemetery in Springfield, and Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pioneer Valley Hospice, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

Marie A. DeSieno

Marie A. (Dandrea) DeSieno, 68, of 69 River Road, Agawam, died at Ludlow's Rehabilitation Hospital of Western New England. She was a 29-year officer of the former John H. Breck Co., and also worked for Shelton Products of West Springfield.

She retired in 1988. She was born in Amsterdam, New York and attended Wilbur H. Lynch High School. She lived here from 1957, and was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church. She belonged to the Women's Division of Amerita Lodge 379 of the Sons of Italy.

Her husband, Louis A. DeSieno, died in 1980. She leaves a son, Louis, with whom she lived; two brothers, Anthony ("Hank") Dandrea and Vito Dandrea of Amsterdam; two sisters, Nellie Aragona of Schenectady, New York, and Ethel Poremba of Amsterdam; nephews and nieces.

The funeral was at Tazzini Funeral Home, with a service in the church and the burial in Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 813 Williams St., P.O. Box 61210, Longmeadow, 01116.

Algot V. Olson, Jr.

Algot V. Olson, Jr., 64, of 168 Maynard Street, Feeding Hills, a real estate owner, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in Boone Grove, Indiana, he lived in Springfield before moving to Feeding Hills in 1959.

He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, a member of the Esoteric Masonic Lodge, and attended the South Congregational Church in Springfield.

He leaves his wife, the former Merle E. Blakesley; two sons, Robert V. and Mark D. of Feeding Hills; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held in the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery in Feeding Hills. Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105, or the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9a, West Springfield, MA 01089.

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Not Valid On Holidays

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(Not Valid For Parties Over 6)
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15% service charge will be added to your bill.

Coupon

Not Valid On Holidays

Wednesday and Thursday Only

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With This Coupon

On Dinner For 2 Totaling \$20.00 Or More

This coupon is not redeemable on specially priced entrees, lunch menu items, or early bird specials. Only one coupon per couple, per visit. Coupon is not redeemable for cash or with any other coupon or special. Applicable taxes paid by bearer.

Beautification Comm. Compliments Helpers For Holiday Season

The Beautification Committee reports a high level of community support as Agawam prepares for the holidays. Speaking for the Committee, Councilman George Bitzas said that each year more volunteers step forward to help make some of the town's public areas attractive and festive.

Mr. Bitzas stated further, "The true spirit of the holidays can be seen in those individuals and organizations who offer time, money, or materials and who are solely motivated by the spirit of the season."

The Anne Sullivan Memorial/Granger School location in Feeding Hills is one site receiving the holiday decorative touch. Jim Loomis, former Granger School Principal and Anne Sullivan Committee member, again this year assembled a capable staff of volunteers to help prepare the lights and display figures. Children leaving the school last week were craning their necks to better see volunteer John O'Krongley maneuver a man dangling in a small cage high in the trees while working on the lights. The treelighting in Feeding Hills is developing into a popular holiday tradition and attracts youngsters and oldsters from throughout town.

Following its popularity last year, the Town Hall will again be the prime focus of attention for the downtown Agawam area. The Springfield Turnverein was one of the first to step forward and offer a tree. Although the Turnverein received requests from other communities for the beautiful 35-foot blue spruce which formerly graced the front of their building on Garden Street, they said they wanted to be a good neighbor and offer it first to the Town of Agawam.

In addition, Richard Holland, Turnverein member and former tree surgeon at Forest Park, helped fell the tree and prepare it for transfer to the Town Hall. The installation of new lighting and the recent pruning of the trees in front of the Town Hall will make it much more visible this year. It is one of the most attractive of our public buildings.

Gracing either side of the main entrance of the building this holiday season are two large wreaths which were supplied through the generosity of an anonymous donor.

At the "Welcome to Agawam" sign at the end of the Morgan Sullivan Bridge, is a freshly cut tree donated from the stock of Boglich Nursery in Agawam. John Zebryk of the Beautification Committee thanks all who are participating, including the DPW, and wishes each could be identified by name.

Agawam Post Office Open Sat. & Sun.

The Agawam Post Office will be offering extended hours for the holiday season.

The extended hours are as follows:

Saturday, December 14th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

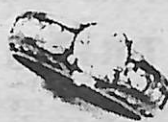
Sunday, December 15th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Ring Sizing — \$10.95 • Watch Battery — \$2.95
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Appraisal — \$24.95 • Prongs Repair — \$7.95

Some Limitations (Expiration Date: January 31, 1997)

525 Springfield Street, Corner Shops, Agawam, MA 01030
Appointments Available • Telephone (413) 789-2603

Mon. & Wed., Closed; Tues., 10-6; Thurs. & Fri., 10-7; Sat., 10-4
(Hours Will Be Extended During The Holidays)

Keenan Says Regional Student Program Saves Thousands In Tuition

In his ongoing effort to keep constituents updated on state programs that may be of benefit to them, State Rep. Daniel F. Keenan has released the following information regarding the New England Regional Student Program.

New England residents may be eligible for significant tuition savings if they study certain programs not available in their home state. Through the New England Regional Student Program (RSP), New England students pay reduced out-of-state tuition at public colleges and universities in the other New England states when they enroll in certain majors not offered at public institutions in their home states. They may earn degrees in such majors as pharmacy, oceanography, meteorology, law, criminology, marine transportation, engineering, and environmental design.

The RSP, established in 1957 by the New England Board of Higher Education, has enabled New England residents to save on more than 120,000 out-of-state tuition bills. In the 1995-1996 academic year, more than 7,000 students each saved an average \$3,900 on their tuition bills, for a total one-year savings of more than \$28 million.

The RSP has enabled the New England states to avoid duplicating costly academic programs already available elsewhere in the region and accessible to their residents through the RSP.

Anyone interested in further information about the Regional Student Program may write to Office of the Regional Student Program, New England Board of Higher Education, 45 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111, or may call the Office of the RSP at (617) 357-9620.

Agawam Police Dept. Weekly Arrest Blotter

On December 6, 1996, **Bruce Stanton** of 67 Bridge Street, Agawam, was arrested and charged with outstanding warrants.

On December 6, 1996, **David P. Harlow** of 71 High Street, Apt. No. 8, was arrested and charged with domestic A&B.

On December 7, 1996, **Kristin Robare** of 328 Parkview Street, West Springfield, was arrested and charged with being a disorderly person.

On December 7, 1996, **William Miller** of 87 Senator Avenue, Agawam, was arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol.

On December 8, 1996, **Daniel P. Grey** of 5 Belle Street, Agawam, was arrested and charged with outstanding warrants and driving after revocation.

*Please remember
our deadline is every
Tuesday at noon. We
open at 6:30 a.m.
each weekday.*

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The Veterans' Corner

VA-Guaranteed Home Loan

Q. The interest rate on my guaranteed home loan by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) is much higher than those currently being offered by lenders. Does VA have a program to assist in refinancing home loans to reduce the interest rate?

A. Yes. VA urges veterans with interest rates on VA-guaranteed home loans at least two percentage points higher than the current rate to refinance. This can be done with VA's Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan (IRRRL), which is used strictly to reduce the interest rate on an existing VA-guaranteed home loan and often requires no out-of-pocket cost to the veteran homeowner.

The potential savings are substantial for veterans. Call your local VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000 for a list of private lenders who offer IRRRL's in your area.

Q. I want to buy land to build a house on when I leave the army. Can I use my VA-guaranteed home loan for this purpose?

A. No. A VA-guaranteed home loan cannot be used to buy undeveloped land unless it is part of a package that includes building a house.

Q. Do I have to live in the house I buy with a VA-guaranteed home loan?

A. Veterans must certify that they intend to live in the home they are buying or building with a VA-guaranteed home loan.

Q. Can I use my entitlement for a VA-guaranteed home loan to buy a motor home?

A. No. Motor homes are not included in the VA-guaranteed home loan program. However, you can buy a trailer or manufactured home, with or without a lot, with a VA-guaranteed home loan.

Q. Does a VA-guaranteed home loan entitlement provide cash to the veteran?

A. No. The amount of entitlement relates only to the amount VA will guarantee the lender against loss. The one exception is that Native American veterans are entitled to a direct home loan for up to \$80,000 to purchase, construct, or improve dwellings located on trust lands.

Q. Doesn't VA set the interest rate on VA-guaranteed home loans to veterans?

A. VA has not set interest rates since 1992, when the President signed a law lifting the requirement. Under the act, interest rates and the payment of discount points must be negotiated between the veteran, seller, and lender.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information mentioned in this article, contact Ruth C. Bitzas, Veterans' Agent, Agawam Town Hall, 786-0400, ext. 242.

(Next week — "Continuation Of VA-Guaranteed Home Loan.")

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FireWise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano
Juvenile Firesetters

Estimates show that well over half the incendiary fires in larger municipalities are caused by children under the age of 18. In fact, many are younger. Boys are more likely than girls to be the culprits.

Unfortunately, simple curiosity, often combined with poor supervision, accounts for a large portion of the fires set by children, and the children who set fires are from a diverse group with varied social backgrounds and varying motives.

Some children who set fires are from "unstable homes," and many come from poor families. However, the statistics do not define a specific racial or ethnic group to be involved, nor is it found that many of the children have serious problems.

When identified juvenile firesetters warrant prevention efforts, the Agawam Fire Department provides these suggestions:

- Reduce the likelihood that any child will engage in unsupervised or otherwise potentially dangerous firesetting by removing matches and lighters from reach.
- Reduce the likelihood that children who have engaged in occasional unsupervised and/or otherwise dangerous firesetting do not repeat this behavior by better supervision and/or corrective measures.

- Identify and work intensively with those children who have an established history of firesetting.

Should you know of, or suspect, a juvenile firesetter, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662 for help.

LEGAL NOTICE

Project: Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway
Location: Agawam and Springfield, Massachusetts

Proponent: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs on or before December 2, 1996. This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA," G.L. c. 30, secs. 61, 62-62H.). Copies to the ENF may be obtained from:

Frank Bracaglia
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
101 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 9151
Watertown, Massachusetts 02272
(617) 924-1770

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Conservation Commissions and Planning Boards of Agawam and Springfield, where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for twenty days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an Environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02202, Attention: MEPA Unit, referencing the above project.

By: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Published: December 12, 1996

LEGAL NOTICE

Holiday Baskets Again Being Prepared By Jr. Women's Club

The Holiday Baskets sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club has helped 50 families this year to have a happier Thanksgiving, and we hope a Merry Christmas. Thanksgiving was accomplished through the generosity of several local businesses and groups, including two of Agawam's six schools; Agawam High School and Clifford Granger Elementary.

Businesses that have contributed to this two-holiday project include Lucia Lumber, Country Squire Furniture, E. Cecchi Farms, Woronoco Savings, Waniewski Farm, Inc., Agawam Federal Credit Union, Medical West, Agawam Lions Club, and the Agawam Baptist Church.

Those donating non-perishable food include Fitness First, Fleet Bank, Fini Plant Farm, Medical West, Boy Scout Pack 77 of St. John's Church, Agawam Town Hall, Agawam Senior Center, Agawam Public Library, Public Market, Baptist Church, Big Y, Food Mart, Stop & Shop, along with Granger School and Agawam High School.

Christmas Baskets still need to be filled and donations would be greatly appreciated. We have 50 families and need assistance with purchasing approximately 45 turkeys in the 10 to 12 pound range to complete those baskets.

If you would like to donate a turkey or contribute towards their purchase, please write to Holiday Baskets, c/o Agawam Jr. Women's Club, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001, or call Holiday Baskets, 786-3327 for pick-up of donations.

Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

Regular Town Council Meeting Agenda For Mon., December 16th

1. Citizen's Speak Time
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 12/2/96
5. Declaration from Council President
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

(a) Resolutions

1. TR-96-31 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of David Cecchi, 29 Albert St., Agawam, MA to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 1, 2000 (Mayor).

2. TR-96-32 - A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Dean Godek, 24 Cedarnoll Dr., FH, MA to the Municipal Golf Commission for a term to expire December 31, 1999 (Mayor).

7. Report of Council Committees

8. Elections

None.

9. Public Hearings

None.

10. Old Business

(a)

1. TO-96-27 - To discuss and vote to hire Attorney John F. Moriarty to advise the councilors in regards to PE-96-2 (Pres. Thompson) (Vetoed by Mayor Johnson on 11/18/96).

'Breakfast With Santa' Delayed Until Sunday, December 15th

Santa Claus is STILL coming to town! However, he was delayed by last Sunday's snowstorm.

Look for Santa on Sunday, December 15th; he will be visiting the Agawam Senior High School from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. to meet all good boys and girls for a pancake and sausage breakfast.

He is asking that children bring their letters addressed to Santa if they have not mailed them. Photos will be taken of Santa and your child upon request.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is sponsoring the breakfast and looks forward to the many children who attend every year. Tickets will be available at the door: adults, \$4; children, \$2.50; and photos, \$2 each.

Food during the holiday season this year is in short supply for our elderly and our needy in town. A donation of a canned good would be appreciated.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Massachusetts.

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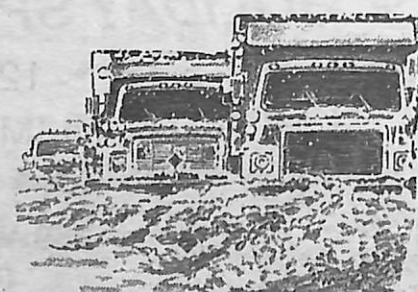


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Families

Christmas Party For Golden Age Club II Held At Chez Josef

Chapter 2 of the Agawam Golden Age Club held its annual Christmas party at Chez Josef in Agawam on Wednesday, December 4th.

President Louis Scherpa (wearing a bright red vest) greeted the merry seniors as they entered the sparkling, decorated lobby of the Tivoli Banquet Hall starting at 11:00 a.m. Tasty egg nog and other treats were on the refreshment tables during the social hour when guests were busily visiting their dear friends and admiring each other's holiday finery.

Promptly at 12:00 noon, the tall curtains were drawn, revealing the beautifully decorated Tivoli Dining Room completely set for the seniors' Christmas party. President Scherpa conducted the salute to the flag and the pledge of allegiance, followed by Chaplain Leanne Dion, who offered a prayer and blessing of the food.

Each person was given a choice of either beef tenderloin, chicken, or scrod as the main course, which was done to perfection and served expertly by the Chez Josef banquet staff.

Announcements were made by President Scherpa after the banquet, and he also gave special thanks to those who assisted with the party arrangements: Perry and Rose McCobb, ticket sales; Alice Bishop, site and menu selection; Edward Grimes, table seating; Leanne Dion, food blessing; and Virginia Lake, entertainment.

Chapter 2 of the Golden Age Club was formed in September 1982 to admit the many Agawam seniors who were on a waiting list and unable to join the Golden Age Club due to size limitations. Each Chapter is limited to 300 members according to its by-laws.

Chapter 2 has attracted many talented and caring members who meet twice each month (the first and third Wednesdays) at the Agawam Senior Center. This club awards two scholarships every year to Agawam High School students who have been accepted by a college of their choice.

Tour Director Frank Paradiso schedules frequent bus trips to interesting places at a reasonable cost to club members. Speakers and entertainers are invited to each regular meeting and to special banquets such as the Christmas party for the enjoyment of the club members.

At this year's yuletide festivities, President Scherpa called on Virginia Lake, Program Chairperson, to introduce the West Side Tappers, a colorful and talented music and dance group of seniors from West Springfield. The banquet audience was constantly applauding the gaily costumed performers during their lively dance routines.



SOME OF THE AGAWAM GOLDEN AGE CLUB MEMBERS (Chapter II) who attended the Annual Christmas Party included (back row, from left) Virginia Lake, Barbara Kupec, and Jane Nunn. Seated - Laurel Gagnon, Rita Matys, Thelma Gardner, and Bernice Burton. RELATED PHOTO ON NEXT PAGE. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



HELPING TO ORGANIZE THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY for the Agawam Golden Age Club (Chapter II) were (from left) - Perry McCobb, tickets; Rose McCobb, tickets; Virginia Lake, program; Lee Dion, chaplain; Alice Bishop, and Edward Grimes, table arrangements. RELATED PHOTO ON NEXT PAGE. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Best local news

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FEEDING HILLS, MA

RT. 57	RT. 57
South West St.	RT. 197
GREENEEDLE PLANTATION	Barry St.
STATE LINE	RT. 168
RT. 168	W. SUFFIELD, CT

Christmas Party For Golden Agers (Chapt. II)



SOME OF THE HAPPY FACES who attended last week's Annual Christmas Party for the Agawam Golden Age Club (Chapter II) at Chez Josef included (standing) - Ellie Funai, Jessie D. Fuller, Harold Davis, and Jeannette Poirier. Seated - Jenn Bisesti, Barbara Gagnon, Ethel A. Kane, and Rupert M. Kane. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Airman Scott Bleau Now Deployed In South Korea

Air Force Airman 1st Class Scott M. Bleau is one of 600 Air Force security specialists deployed to Kunsan Air Base, Kunsan City, Republic of Korea (ROK), to participate in an annual U.S.-ROK joint exercise termed "Fool Eagle '96."

The exercise involved the majority of U.S. and ROK forces on the peninsula and was designed to test major command, control, and communications systems, interoperability, and rear area protection operations. It provided hands-on field and combat experience for forces of both nations.

Bleau is a security policeman with the 15th Security Police Squadron, normally stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu, Hawaii.

His wife, Holly, is the daughter of Ronald and Bettie DePue of 615 Belmont Road, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The airman is a 1993 graduate of Agawam High School.

Santa Claus Seeks Christmas Letters From Local Children

Once again, the Agawam Junior Women's Club is asking all good girls and boys to send their letters to Santa Claus at the North Pole. Make sure you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope along with your letter so that Santa can reply.

Santa's elves enjoy delivering your letters to Santa and Mrs. Claus, as it brings them good cheer during this joyous holiday season. To get your letter to the North Pole in time, address your envelope to **SANTA, c/o 24 Tanglewood Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-1527.**

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Upcoming Activities At Spfld. Turnverein

The Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, is holding its annual Christmas party for adults on Saturday, December 14th. A baked stuffed chicken breast dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Reservations may be made with Christa Strehl at 786-0143, or at the Club, 786-0924. Deadline for reservations is December 11th.

Following dinner, the music of the "Dan Kane Band" will entertain us. There will be music for dancing and listening pleasure, and the members of our Ladies' Glee Club and Men's Singing Section will lead the singing of favorite Christmas carols.

We invite all our friends to join us for a memorable evening!

Our Cultural Committee is planning a Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 15th, beginning at 2:30 p.m. There will be a film on how the people of Frankenmuth, MI, celebrate Christmas. A sing-along of Christmas carols will follow.

A special presentation by Kurt Strehl will show how to make a "Feuerzangelbowle," translated a "Fire Tong Punch." It gets its name from the fire tongs which are shaped like a trowel with perforations upon which rests a sugar cone drenched with brandy; this is flamboyed and the flames melt the sugar to drip down into a bowl of mulled wine. Of course, the tongs are beautifully fashioned of copper, and the whole thing adds elegance and beauty to any holiday table. Kurt will give out the recipe upon request.

A coffee hour with holiday goodies, cookies, and stollen will follow. Bring your friends to bring back memories or to learn a little about the wonderful German heritage our members have brought to us.

Festival Of Music Being Held At Quail Run Estates

On Friday, December 20th, Quail Run Estates will present the Festival of Music. At 2:00 p.m., the "Sunshiners," a musical group, will be singing holiday music from around the world.

On the same day at 6:30 p.m., there will be carolers singing Christmas carols.

The public is invited to come to Quail Run to enjoy the music and complimentary refreshments.

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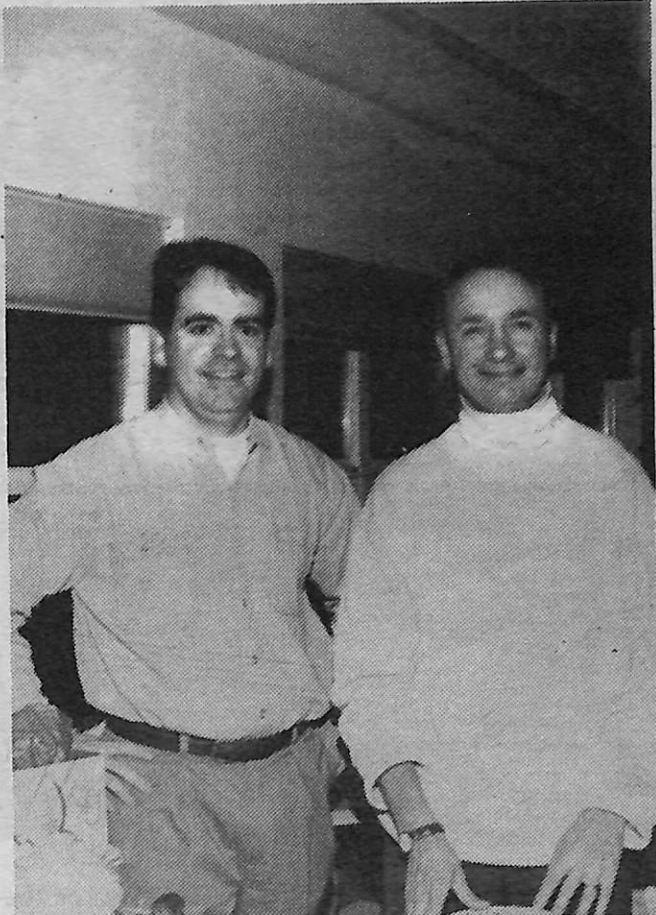
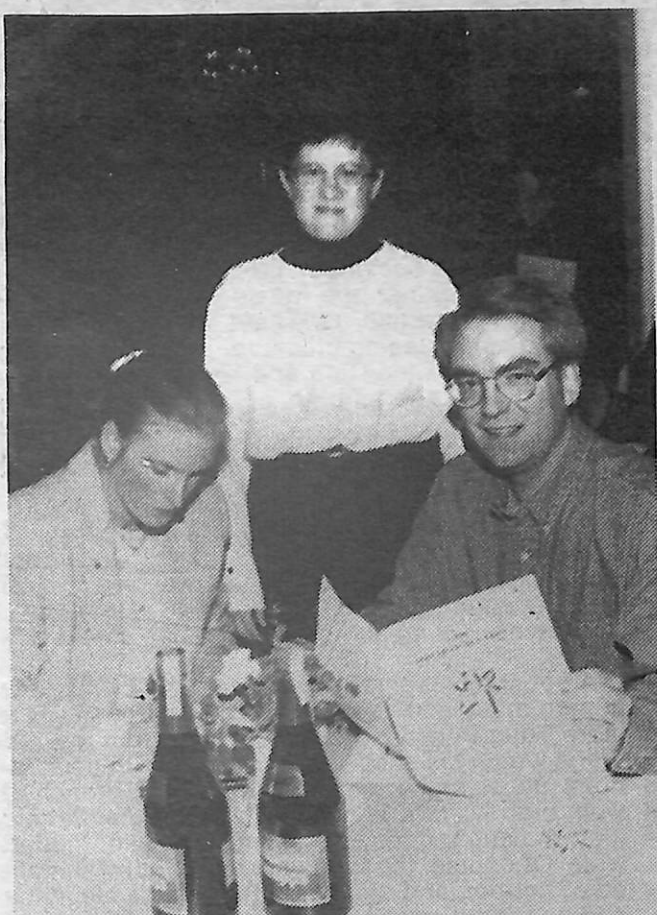
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Agawam Rotary Auction Held At Quail Run Estates

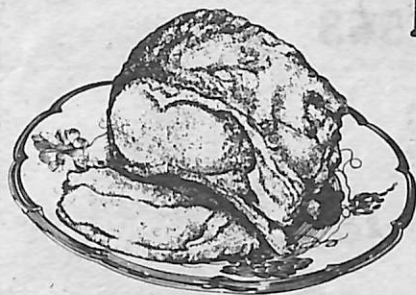


THE AGAWAM ROTARY CLUB held its Annual Auction Night at the new Quail Run Estates on Saturday, November 30th. FROM LEFT - Joanne McGeoghan (Berkshire Power); Anna Johnson and Mayor Christopher C. Johnson; MIDDLE PHOTO - Rotary President Michael Grandfield (Rotary president from Albany) and member Richard Bellico (Worono Savings); and photo right - Police Chief Robert Campbell. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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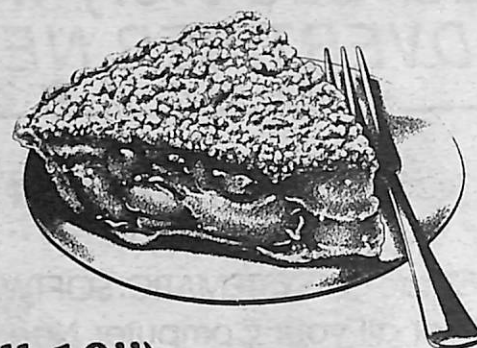
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Now \$6.99 (All 10")

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Deli

- * Land-O-Lakes Cheese - \$2.79 Lb.
- * Large Kayam Bologna - \$2.49 Lb.

— Coupon Special —

Any Sandwich With Potato Or Macaroni Salad - \$3.99

(Must Present Coupon / Expires 12-19-96)

Jr. Women's Ornament Makes Nice Stuffer For Christmas Stocking

The Agawam Junior Women's Club will be presenting their sixth ornament in a series depicting historical sites in Agawam and Feeding Hills.

This year's ornament will feature the Agawam Fire Department's Station No. 3, the very first permanent fire station in Agawam Center. The station was actually built in 1918. In 1996, Station No. 3 officially closed, but plans are being made to convert the station into a fire and historic museum.

The ornament features Station No. 3 with incredible detail on a molded antique bronze medallion, surrounded by a holly wreath. The Agawam Junior Women's Club hopes to make citizens more aware of the history contained right here in our own community. This beautiful ornament is a great place to start a collection or a perfect addition to an already established one.

The ornaments are now available for a \$5 donation. Proceeds will be used for community service projects. They can be purchased at The Corner Deli, The Feeding Hills Public Market, The Agawam Public Market, and Surprise! Card & Gift Shop. They can also be ordered by calling Pam at 789-3274 or Betty at 786-4357.

Our first ornament in 1991 featured The Captain Charles Leonard House and is sold out. Our 1993 ornament featuring the old Agawam High School is also sold out. There is a limited supply of 1992 featuring the Old Agawam Center Library, 1994 featuring the Anne Sullivan Memorial, and 1995 featuring the Riverside Carousel Horse. If you have an interest in any of these ornaments, please call Betty at 786-4357.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of The General Federation of Women's Club's of Massachusetts.

New Fire Museum Receives \$1,600 From Ag. Cultural Council

The Agawam Cultural Council has contributed \$1,600 to Agawam's proposed new Historic and Fire Museum. By so doing, it is one of the first major contributors to join the "Chief's Circle" category of contributor who has contributed \$1,000 or more to the fund drive.

As announced in *The Agawam Advertiser News* on November 21, 1996, the Agawam Historical Association has initiated a fund drive to convert the old Elm Street fire station into a Historic and Fire Museum.

In making the presentation, Joanne Condon, Chairperson for the Agawam Cultural Council, said, "The objectives of the proposed new museum will fill a cultural void in Agawam. We are delighted to be one of the first to step forward in support of its goals and objectives. We hope our early action will stimulate other groups and individuals in the community to join in this very worthwhile community project."

In accepting the contribution, Rick Bellico, President of the Agawam Historical Association, said that he was most appreciative of the Council's generosity and early support and added, "It's an important endorsement to our program and a good first step in helping us reach our \$25,000 goal."

The Historical Association is seeking new members to aid in this undertaking and is soliciting contributions which can be sent to the Agawam Historical Association, P.O. Box 552, Agawam, MA 01001. For more information, contact Rick Bellico at (413) 568-9147, ext. 224.

best local news...



JOANNE L. CONDON, chairwoman of the Agawam Cultural Council, presents a check to Agawam Historical Commission members John R. Zebryk (left), vice-president, and Richard Bellico, president, for the commission's fund to restore the old Elm Street Fire Station into the Historic and Fire Museum.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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25% - 40%

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- Misses, jr. and petite sportswear • Better jr. collections & activewear
- All misses, petite, and jr. dresses
- Handbags & small leathers goods (ex. Liz Claiborne)
- Warmwear, gloves, scarves, belts, dickies, hair accessories & hats
- Jewelry • Select Gift items • Warm sleepwear, robes and loungewear
- Shapewear, daywear and Cuddl Duds warmwear
- Children's sportswear • Children's dresses & outerwear
- Casual, dress and evening shoes • Boots

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- SEMI-ANNUAL
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MR. & MRS. STEVEN CRANCE

Kari Person Weds Steven Crance In St. Louis, Missouri

Kari Person (a.k.a Karen Walker), daughter of the 1994 Republican of the Year Harold Walker and his wife, Lorraine, long-time residents of Agawam, recently became the wife of Steven Crance in the St. Louis Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Missouri.

A reception was held at the home of Commander and Mrs. Booker in St. Louis and later at their home in Manhattan Beach, California, where Kari, a graduate of Agawam High School, has lived since graduation from college in Connecticut in 1969.

Kari has worked as a Realtor in the South Bay area of Los Angeles, California for over 10 years and is employed by Moore & Associates Realtors in Redondo Beach.

Steve, who is originally from Michigan, is a graduate of Arizona Western College and employed at TRW in Redondo Beach.

Both are very active in sports and have returned to make their home in Redondo Beach, California from a honeymoon in Baniff, Canada. Kari's sister, Brenda Weimann, lives in West Springfield.

Best local news

CHINA STAR 星

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Christmas Musical At Harvest Assembly

The Christmas musical comedy, CHECK OUT THAT STAR, will be held at Harvest Assembly of God on Sunday, December 15th, at 6:00 p.m.

It is the story of how one worldly, unloving person through a crazy dream has a total transformation when confronted with the birth of Jesus. It is an untypical musical sure to appeal and speak to adults and children through its songs, its characters, its humor, and its message.

The church is located at 121 Union Street in West Springfield (near the IHOP restaurant). Call 739-1234 for more information.

Jack Devine needs at least 48 hours notice. Call 789-0053

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 16th: Meatloaf with gravy, baked potato, green beans, rye bread, fresh fruit.

Tuesday, December 17th: Pea soup, ham sandwich, broccoli salad, lemon pudding.

Wednesday, December 18th: Chicken pot pie (chicken, peas, potato, carrots, celery), tossed salad, wheat bread, applesauce.

Thursday, December 19th: Stuffed cabbage, mashed potato, mixed vegetables, wheat bread, apricots.

Friday, December 20th: Christmas party — pork roast, pan-roasted potatoes, butternut squash, rolls, cake.

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HOURS: Monday, 10-5; Tues.-Wed., 9-5;
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“It’s Beginning To Look



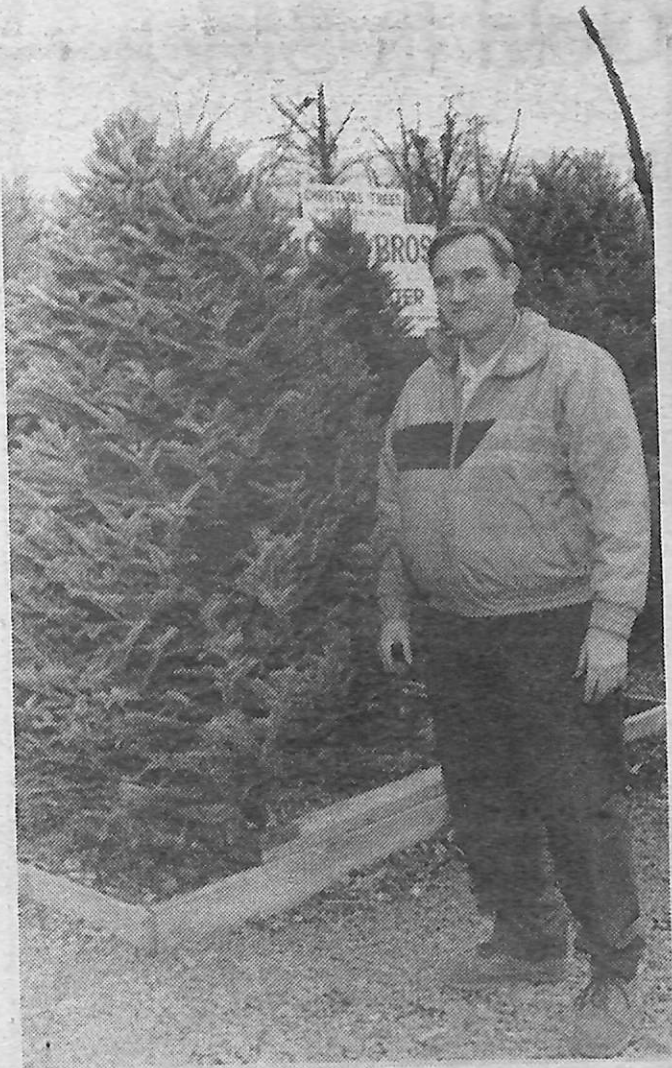
MANAGER BILL RAYMOND (in photos above and below) with some of the wreaths and Christmas trees that are available at DeCaro Brothers Garden Center, 1236 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.



KATHY CAMPBELL stands among the wreaths that are for sale at Cascio Company Landscaping, 262 Meadow Street, Agawam.



BOB GERMAIN at work at Cascio Company Landscaping, proving why customers are “flocking” over to look at the Christmas trees.



YOUNGSTERS FROM THE CHILDREN’S CENTER at Agawam United Methodist Church recently paid a visit to Glen Gary Christmas Tree Farm, located at 539 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam.



“IS EVERYONE READY???” The young and the young-at-heart from the Children’s Center prepare to take a tour of Glen Gary Christmas Tree Farm.



Photos
on
Pages
14 & 15
by
Jack Devine

A Lot Like Christmas"...



RALPH MCCARL examines the poinsettias that are available at Mitch's Home & Garden Showplace.



MAGGIE GIROUX, an employee of Mitch's Home & Garden Showplace, with some of the many holiday items for sale.



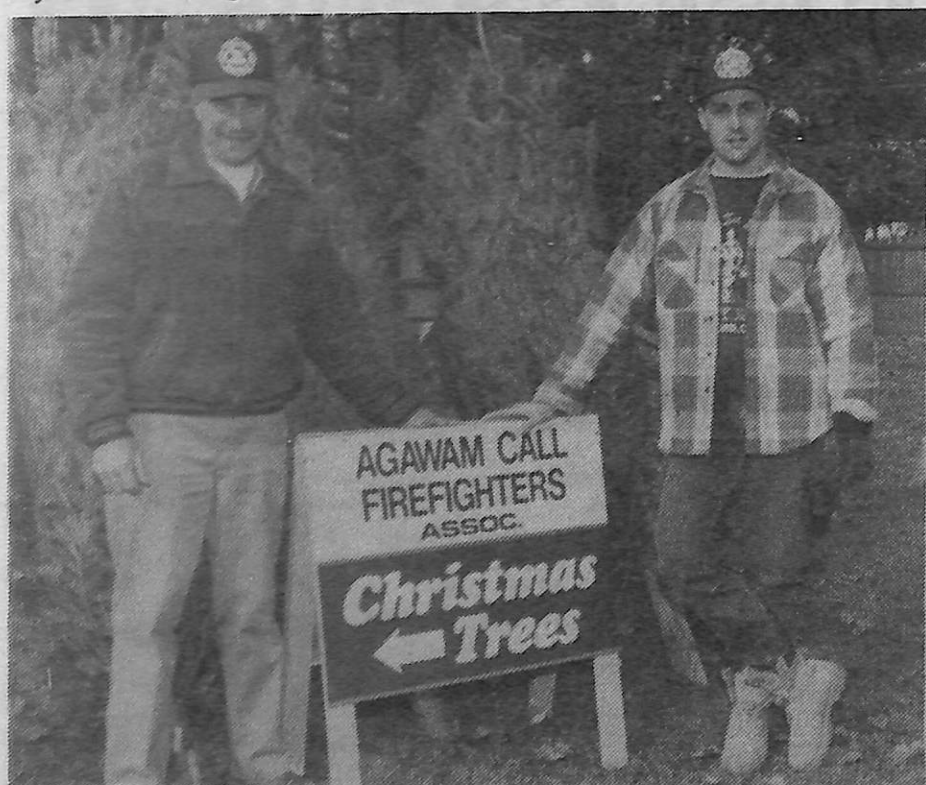
THE CARTER FAMILY (Laura, Marianne, Sherry, and Rick) at Greennedle Plantation, 425 South West Street, Feeding Hills.



THE ENTRANCE TO Mitch's Home & Garden Showplace, which is located at 1265 Suffolk Street, Agawam.



MANY HAPPY FACES can be found this holiday season at Greennedle Plantation.



THE SIGN SAYS IT ALL - John Poliwczak and Mike Nicora want to remind area residents that the Agawam Call Firefighters Association has Christmas trees for sale.



MIKE SIBILIA, TODD KANE, AND WARREN MIODOWSKI with just some of the Christmas trees that the Agawam Call Firefighters Association is offering this yuletide season.

AHS Class Of 1981 Gathers For 15th



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL Class Of 1981 gathered for their 15-year reunion at Storretown Carriage House on November 30th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM HIGH 1981 REUNION: Classmates who traveled the furthest to attend their 15-year reunion included (photo left, from left) Bill Brock, Virginia; Jim Thornton, Virginia; Anne Taupier, Ohio; Kim Fulvilled, South Carolina; and Bob Lancour, Virginia. IN PHOTO RIGHT, reunion committee members included Christine Liquori Grenier, Sharon Stefanik Roulier, Christine Norman Rice, Terry Amellin Demichele, Patsy Cavallo Urban, Lisa Ghedi Herlihy, Nancy O'Keefe, and Debra Macey Taylor. Missing: Dawn Negrucci Uschmann. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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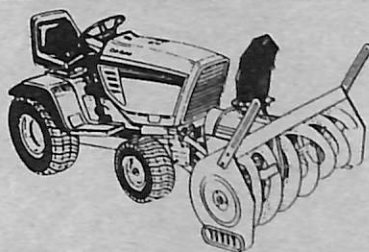
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Picture with Santa

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MR. & MRS. CARLOS SANCHEZ

St. John's Over 60 Club To Take Trip To The Berkshires

St. John's Over 60 Club has a trip — "Christmas in the Berkshires" at the Williams Inn — scheduled for Thursday, December 19th. The bus will leave St. John's parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

There will be a visit to the Clark Art Institute, then on to the Williams Inn for a Boar's Head Procession with Charles Dickens.

The cost for this bus trip is \$49, and there are still a few seats available. If you are interested, please call Barbara Gingras at 786-7037.

Susan Andry Weds Carlos Sanchez In Ceremony In Miami

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Andry of Miami, Florida (formerly of Agawam), Ms. Elsa Matos of Holyoke, and Mr. Roberto Sanchez of Miami are pleased to announce the marriage of their children on Friday, November 8, 1996.

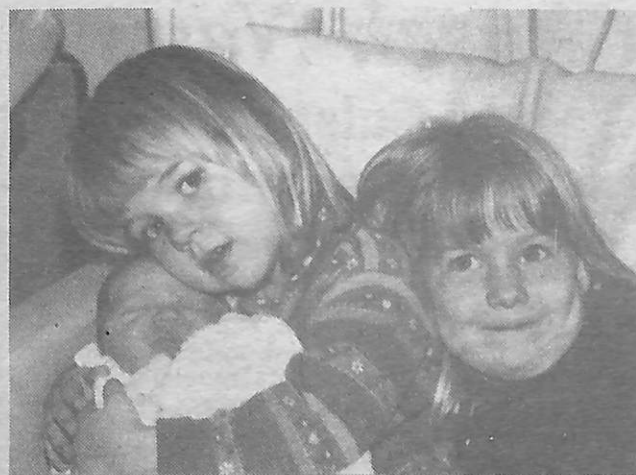
Family and friends joined Susan Noel and Officer Carlos Sanchez at Sacred Heart Church in Holyoke for the wedding ceremony, followed by a beautiful reception held at Chez Josef under the guidance of Mr. Ron Skole and Mr. Michael Kuchyt.

The bridal party consisted of 15 groomsmen and bridesmaids with three flowergirls in attendance. The maid of honor was Susan's cousin, Ms. Cheryl Becker of Long Island. Best man was Mr. Derek Woods of Chicopee.

Susan and Carlos spent their honeymoon week at Disney World. Carlos is employed with the Hampden County Sheriff Department as a Correctional Officer and a member of the Criminal Investigation Unit.

Susan is employed with Tri-County Youth Program as the Outreach Treatment Coordinator and currently pursuing her Doctoral Degree in Psychology.

For all the local news, townsfolk turn our pages - AAN!



THE BARD CHILDREN: newborn Elijah and big sisters Evan and Leisl.

Elijah R. Bard Is Third Child Of Todd & Barbara Bard

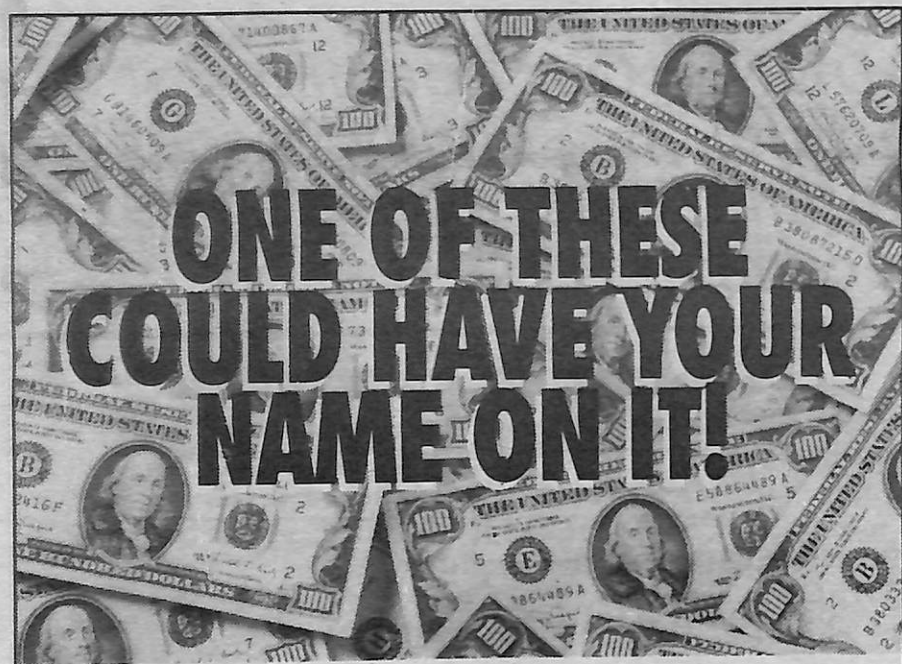
Todd & Barbara (Plante) Bard are happy to announce the birth of their third child, a son, Elijah Raye.

Elijah was born on November 14th and weighed eight pounds, nine ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Ed & Dottie Plante of Feeding Hills and paternal grandparents are Frank & Roberta Bard of Westfield.

Big sisters Evan and Leisl are thrilled to have a brother in the house.

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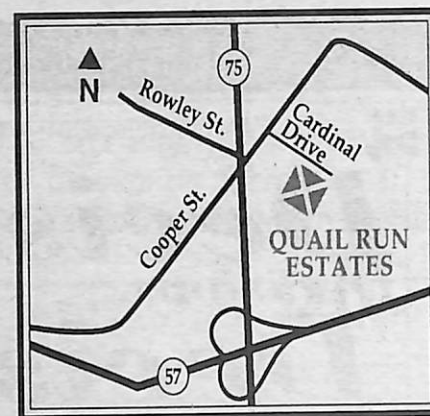
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Church News

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, December 15th, is the third Sunday of Advent. The Worship Service is at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

There will be a special music program presented by our Choir and local musicians under the direction of our Minister of Music, Organist/Choir Director, Dr. Erick Parris. Christmas music will be the highlight of this presentation.

The join Advent Study Series with the First Baptist Church of Agawam, "Which Way to the Manger?", continues this Sunday, December 15th.

This week, the series will be held at the Agawam Congregational Church at 7:00 p.m. The theme for this week is, "Stress/Peace."

There will also be a study series held on Wednesday, December 18th, at 2:00 p.m. for those unable to attend the Sunday series.

The Midweek Service continues each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Join us for the lighting of the Advent Wreath, carols, and communion.

A Christmas Pageant presented by the youth of the church will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24th, at 5:00 p.m. This is a special youth program retelling the birth of Baby Jesus.

Please join us for this special service entitled, "A Barn Child." Rehearsal for this program will be held on Saturday, December 21st, at 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES — On Tuesday, December 24th, at 5:00 p.m., there will be a Christmas Pageant presented by our church youth, under the direction of Dan Pender, Christian Education/Youth Director.

At 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., there will be candlelight services.

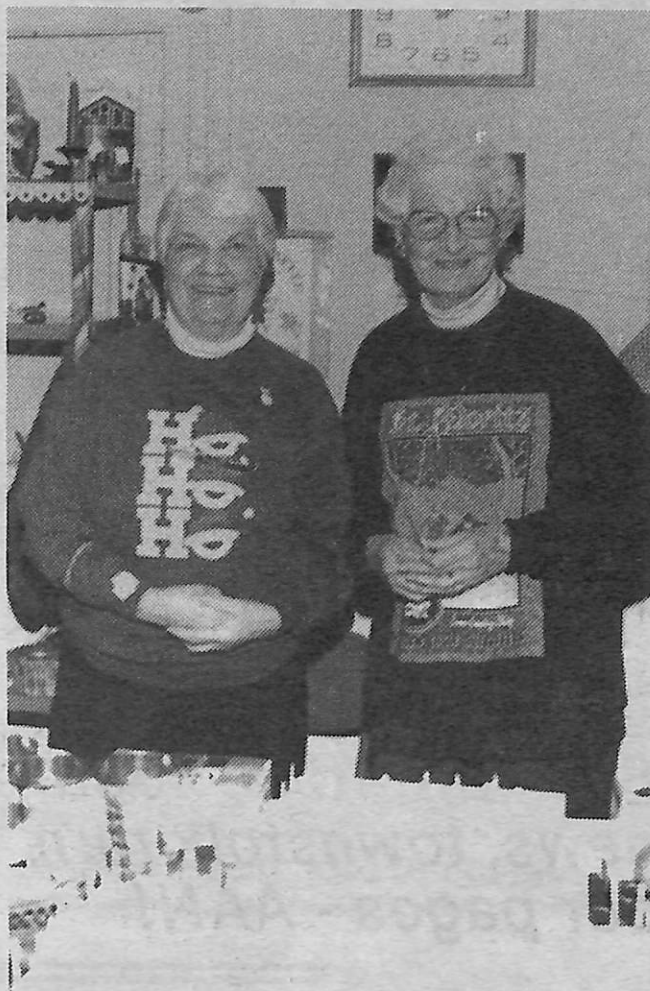
Ag. Congregational Church To Present A Christmas Pageant

The Agawam Congregational Church will present a Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. This is a special youth program retelling the birth of Baby Jesus.

The pageant, entitled "A Barn Child," is under the direction of Dan Pender and Dean Brust. Rehearsal for the pageant will be held on Saturday, December 21st, at 1:00 p.m.

Please join us for this special Christmas service.

All's Well At St. Theresa's Bazaar



ST. THERESA'S CHURCH in North Agawam held its Annual Christmas Bazaar recently. Some of the participants included, from left - Barbara Racicot, Rita Rose, Fran Berwald, and Althea Cowles. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

EARLY DEADLINE: Our deadline for our Christmas Edition is Sunday, December 22nd, at noontime. We are open all day on Saturday, December 21st.

Best
Local
News

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Church News - continued...

Advent Celebration Going Strong At Valley Comm. Church

We are into our third week of Advent, and our anticipation is mounting as we prepare for the birthday of Jesus Christ.

Our week begins on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, with our 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. The message for the service will be taken from the Gospel of John as Pastor Steve describes the relationship of John the Baptist and Christ the Savior. Adult Bible class will begin after the coffee and fellowship time. This week the study will be on Barnabas and will conclude the 15-week character study we have been pursuing.

On TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, the Junior Choir will once again come together at 6:30 p.m. to rehearse their Christmas music, as will the Senior Choir who will meet on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, at 7:30 p.m.

Cub Scout Troop 78, Den 3, will meet in Dunn Hall on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

And don't forget on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, we will be having our afternoon Christmas caroling at Heritage Nursing Home, followed by a pot-luck supper back at the church.

The doors at Valley Community Church are open to everyone who is looking for a church home. The church is located at 152 South Westfield Street.

Hour Of Prayer, Song At Dominican Nuns

The monthly hour of prayer and song for the families of the world will be held at the Dominican Nuns' Monastery Chapel, 1430 Riverdale Street, West Springfield, on Sunday, December 15th, at 4:00 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

The service will include the singing of evening prayer, as well as the recitation of the Rosary and Benediction.

For further information, call 736-3639.

Jingle Valley Fair Again Big Success



THE AGAWAM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH held its Annual Jingle Valley Fair recently. IN PHOTO LEFT, holding Annalee dolls are Helen Lockhart, Valerie Lockhart, and Pamela Moriarty; IN PHOTO RIGHT, Jeanne Webster and Nancy Edwards were selling delicious fudge. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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"Jesus is the Reason for the Season!"

Church News - continued...

West Spfld. Covenant Community Church To Stage "Live" Nativity

The West Springfield Covenant Community Church is proud to announce that it will once again be holding a "live" Nativity scene on Sunday, December 22nd, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and on Monday, December 23rd, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This live Nativity scene is a very special event that many from all over have come to see in past years. This is the church's 9th year of presenting the live Nativity outside on the corner of Amostown and Piper Roads in West Springfield.

The Nativity participants will be dressed in colorful costumes portraying the authenticity of the Nativity as it was in Bethlehem. There will be some light dramatization and special singing as well.

What's more, the church will have live animals that children can feed and enjoy. People can also come to hear special Christmas music and enjoy refreshments that will be served. This will be a memorable and pleasant experience for the whole family.

This year, the West Springfield Covenant Community Church is asking people to bring non-perishable food items to be left in designated boxes at the Nativity. These items will be donated to the Open Pantry, an organization that ministers to needy families.

Sacred Heart Church To Present 10th Annual Christmas Concert

Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, will present its 10th Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday evening, December 15th, at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

As our parish comes to the end of the 50th anniversary year celebration, a joyful evening of Christmas music will be performed by the Sacred Heart Choirs.

The Senior Choir will be singing the cantata "The Tree of Light," written and arranged by Dale Mathews and Michael Frazier. The Junior Choir will also be featured, singing from the Christmas music book "Silent, Holy Night," written by Mark Friedman and Jane Vogt.

Admission is free. This year, we are asking people to bring a non-perishable food item to help the needy of our community.

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Center after the concert. All are welcome.

Best local news...



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church
of the Apostles,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

God Always Keeps His Promises

More than 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah spoke of the man who would introduce His ministry, John the Baptist.

"Comfort, comfort My people," says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."

In this passage, we have a promise from God that His people would not have to suffer the consequences of their sins forever.

The Gospel according to Mark records the fulfillment of God's promise in its very first chapter:

The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way" - "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'" And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

God always keeps His promises. Sometimes it may not seem that way, especially if there is a

period of time between when the promise is first made and when it is fulfilled.

We tend to be an impatient people. The fact that we live in a fast-paced world, where many of our desires are instantly gratified, only serves to make us even more impatient.

If we cannot have our prayers answered as rapidly as McDonald's serves us a hamburger and fries, we think that God does not answer prayer at all.

Although many people had forgotten God's promise of the Messiah, God had not

The Bible says when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law, that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

God had had a plan all along, right from the first moment that Adam and Eve sinned and severed their relationship with God. It was always God's intention to restore the human race to its original relationship with Himself. It bothered God not to be on friendly terms with the people He had made.

Since God is both loving and holy, He had to satisfy both parts of His nature. As only He could do, He accomplished His will perfectly! Having carefully set the stage over time, the Savior of the world was born in a humble manger in Bethlehem.

The message from the manger is that God keeps His promises. God is aware of the fact that none of us, in and of ourselves, deserve to go to heaven. As a matter of fact, none of us are entitled to any of God's grace in this life either.

However, the Bible tells us that God is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. God's Christmas present to us is that if we want to, each of us can grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

United Methodist Church Lists Events For Christmas Season

Like many other churches, Agawam United Methodist is involved in providing Christmas gifts for children whose parents are imprisoned.

In fact, through the "Angel Tree" program, it is understood that more than 10,000 churches help to provide gifts for thousands of the children of prisoners.

On Sunday, December 15th, at our 9:30 a.m. worship, gifts will be received for the "Angel Tree." Our mission committee is busy contacting families for their children's "gift wishes."

If you would like to volunteer to help make contacts, buy gifts according to the request of children, or even deliver, please call our church, 786-4174, and leave your name and number.

Christmas time is a time of good news. Let us

find ways to share it with families that have gone through the trauma of separation.

Our children's Christmas program (pageant) will be on Sunday, December 22nd, at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve (December 24th) services will be conducted at the Agawam United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., respectively.

At these services, there will be the traditional candlelight ceremony or candlelight service.

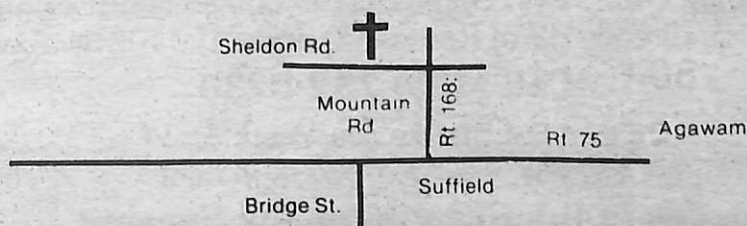
The Holy Communion will be administered at the second service.

Join us for Bible Study on Monday, December 16th, at 7:30 p.m.



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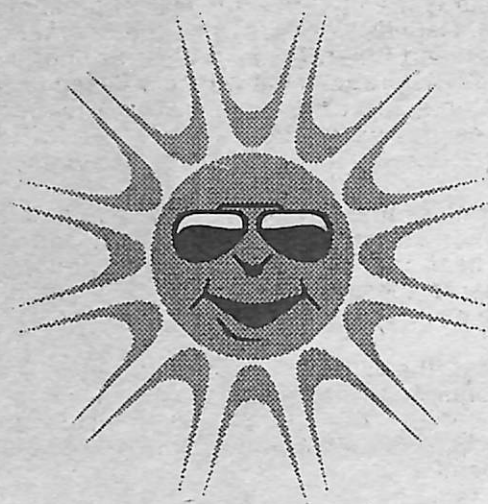
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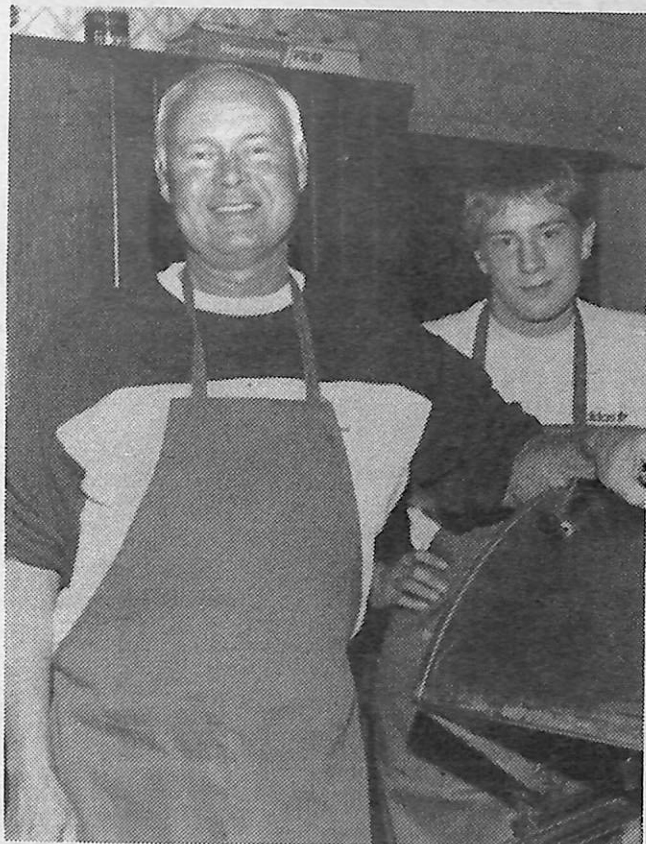
60 North Westfield Street
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(413) 786-1460

Church News - continued...

Pasta Supper At Ag. Congregational Church



THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH recently held a Pasta Supper. IN PHOTO LEFT, kitchen helpers included Jerry Hamel, Anne Hamel, and P.J. Owen; IN PHOTO RIGHT, members of the Pender family were on hand to enjoy the meal - Mary Ellen, Dan, Kevin, Hannah, and Aidan. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



BILL EKSTEDT and WES POMEROY were part of the kitchen crew that put on the recent Pasta Supper at the Agawam Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Thanks To Community Support, Suppers Are Booming At Valley Community Church

With thanks to the community for their fantastic support, the chicken suppers at Valley Community Church are booming. And due to the growing crowds, we strongly recommend reservations for the next chicken supper which will be held on Saturday, December 14th.

Our menu will again feature baked chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, two hot vegetables, tossed salad, cranberry sauce, olives, pickles, rolls with butter, and a beverage. And to

top it all off, you get to choose from the variety of community-famous, guaranteed-fattening desserts.

The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children with continuous servings from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Again, reservations should be made by calling Dot Wells at 786-6031 or Shirley Taylor at 786-2576.

Valley Community Church is located at 152 South Westfield St.

Special Christmas Music Service At Ag. Congregational

The Agawam Congregational Church will present a special Christmas Music Service this Sunday, December 15th, at 10:30 a.m. during the morning Worship Service.

This program is under the direction of Dr. Erick Parris, Minister of Music, Organist/Choir Director. Dr. Parris will be directing the Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, and local musicians for this program.

Join us to hear the special music of this Christmas season.

Check our classified

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*Church News - continued...***Feeding Hills Congregational Lists Many Activities For Upcoming Week**

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Sunday School for adults and young people begins at 9:00 a.m. Morning worship, which will include the lighting of the third Advent candle, begins at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Donaldson will give a sermon entitled, "What Gift from God Do You Most Cherish?"

Children are welcome to attend the service with their parents, leaving at a designated time for a special project. Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

The Youth Group has extended an invitation to all members and friends of this church to join with them on this Friday, December 13th (they're evidently not superstitious!) for a trip to Bright Nights in Springfield.

Please meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. Upon returning to the church, hot cocoa and desserts will be enjoyed by all.

There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Griswold Hall with plenty of room for your name!

There will be a Christmas party for church members and friends at the church following worship on Sunday, December 15th.

Lunch will be provided with pot luck desserts. There may even be a special guest enjoying the fellowship and carol singing with us!

There are only 45 days until the Annual Meeting. It's not too early to start working on your Annual Report!

There will be two Christmas Eve services at this church on Tuesday, December 24th.

The first will be a family style service at 7:00 p.m. The second, more traditional in style, will begin at 11:00 p.m.

From Elaine: I will not be in the office during Christmas week. If you have anything you'd like put into the bulletin for December 29th, please get it to me the week before Christmas if you can.

For 95 years, contributions to the Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross — later augmented by the emergency fund — have brought good to our clergy and widowed spouses, particularly in retirement. The power to continue this tradition is in your hands.

Clergy and spouses who have long served our churches and congregations — Veterans of the Cross — are surely among those to whom good is due. In their professional ministry, they lifted high the cross, put on the armor of God, took the shield of Faith and the sword of the Spirit.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —**Happy 40th Anniversary****Lee & Alice Rolland**

*With Love,
From Your Family & Friends*



Our special collection for Veterans of the Cross will occur on Sunday, December 22nd, and on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th.

On the calendar this week:

Friday, December 13th: 6:30 p.m., Bright Nights trip with Youth Group.

Sunday, December 15th: 9:00 a.m., Sunday School; 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship; 12:00 noon, Church Christmas party; 5:30 p.m., Crossroads; 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Class.

Monday, December 16th: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts.

Tuesday, December 17th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wednesday, December 18th: 6:30 p.m., Music Committee; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, December 19th: 2:50 p.m., Girl Scouts.

Monthly Supper Slated For Methodist Church

Agawam Methodist Church will hold its monthly supper early in December due to the Christmas holiday.

On December 14th, a Christmas ham supper will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Church dining room. Reservations are required by Friday, December 13th.

Call Dana Henry at 789-0684. Price for adults is \$7; senior citizens, \$6.

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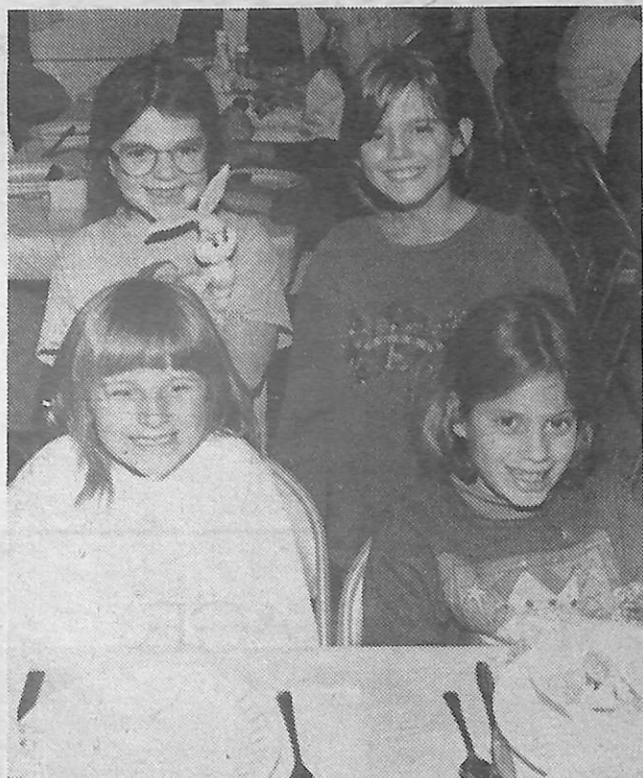


Surprise!

**838 Suffield Street, Agawam
Rte. 75 at Southgate Plaza
Phone 786-2407**

Church News - continued...

Turkey Supper At Agawam Methodist Church



THE AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH recently held a successful turkey supper to get people in the mood for the holiday season. From left - Katarina Porth, Meghan Heng, Megan Burke, and Nicole Chase; MIDDLE PHOTO - The Vogel kids - Jonathan, Matthew, and Jeremy; and in the kitchen, Dick Ainey and Kris Proth. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

"Gift Of Frankincense" Subject Of Rev. Barnes' Sermon

"The Gift of Frankincense" will be the subject of Rev. Richard Barnes' sermon this Sunday at First Baptist Church at the 9:30 a.m. service.

He will use scriptural passages from the Gospel according to St. John as the basis for his message. Special Christmas music will be offered by the Over 60 Bell Choir. Church school classes will be held as usual, with a social time immediately following worship in Davis Hall.

At 7:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church, the Advent series entitled "Which Way to the Manger?" will continue. Presentations will be given by Pastor Richard Barnes and Rev. Curt Fuller of the Agawam Congregational Church. This week's topic is "Stress/Peace."

On December 17th and 18th, you are invited to

support Hospice and the Visiting Nurse Association by gift wrapping at the Enfield Square. The time you are needed is from 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m.

Call Sharon Grabowski at (860) 668-0450 if you can help.

On Friday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m., the Youth Group, together with their leaders and families, will go Christmas carolling to shutins, after which they will have their Christmas party at the Church with refreshments and a gift exchange.

This year by special request, there will be two Christmas Eve services of worship. There will be a 7:00 p.m. service for family worship, and an 11:00

p.m. service of candlelighting.

Christian Education Director Tim Deik will lead both services.

ALSO ON OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, December 17th: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 6:30 p.m., Mr. & Mrs. Club Christmas Meeting; 7:00-10:00 p.m., Gift Wrapping at the Mall; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group.

Wednesday, December 18th: 7:15 a.m., MidWeek Prayer Time; 7:00-10:00 p.m., Gift Wrapping at the Mall.

Thursday, December 19th: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

Friday, December 20th: 7:00 p.m., Youth Group - Christmas Carolling & Party.

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Don Farron is the owner of Sav-More Convenience Store on Orange Street in Springfield. Sandy Farron raises Bearded Collies. With them are Ch. MacCorkindale Booker T.K. and MacCorkindale Brianna T.K.B.



"Booker, our three-year-old Bearded Collie, has been shown since he was nine months old. With scores of blue ribbons, he's earned the rank of Champion and he's Sandy's pride and joy. Booker's niece Brianna is coming up fast. She has Champion potential and we have high hopes for her. Sandy started to show Nana B., as we call her, this spring.

Sandy raises the dogs; I manage the store. In the past, I did business with many banks and, frankly, I find that big banks charge big fees. And everything is a big deal, even routine things. My feeling is that banking should be no big deal. It should be uneventful.

My first experience with Hampden Savings was an eye-opener. After a few minutes with Bob Michel about

a mortgage—and before I even filled out a form—he gave me a good feeling that we could put this mortgage together, no problem. And that's how it worked out. It's been like that for all our personal and business banking.

I like it that Hampden is a mutual bank. The rates are better all around and the bonus interest check we get in November is frosting on the cake.

Speaking of cake, I gave my birth date to a teller in the Allen Street office when I opened our grandson's savings account. Six or seven months later, she called and wished me happy birthday! Now *that's* a big deal—one I can handle."

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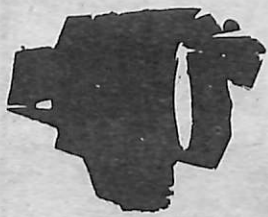


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Spotlight On Business



MICHAEL R. GRANDFIELD

Michael Grandfield Appointed Asst. VP By ALBANK

Herbert G. Chorbajian, Chairman, President and CEO of ALBANK, FSB, has announced the appointment of Michael R. Grandfield of Agawam to the position of Assistant Vice President, Commercial Lending Department.

Grandfield is a graduate of Bryant College, Smithfield, Rhode Island, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, and the American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts, where he received his MBA.

He joined ALBANK in June 1996 with five years of experience in commercial lending. Active in the community, Mr. Grandfield is President of the Agawam Rotary Club and is a United Way Representative. Mr. Grandfield resides in Agawam.

ALBANK Financial Corporation, based in Albany, New York, is the holding company for ALBANK, FSB. Founded in 1820 as Albany Savings Bank, ALBANK, FSB is the oldest operating savings bank in New York State. The Bank and its brokerage and insurance subsidiary, ALVEST Financial Services, Inc., provide a wide range of financial products and services through a branch network of 69 offices in upstate New York, Western Massachusetts, and Vermont.

At September 30, 1996, ALBANK Financial Corporation had consolidated assets of \$3.5 billion, deposits of \$3.0 billion, and capital of \$314 million.

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HANGING AT FEEDING HILLS PUBLIC MARKET is this old Coke sign which was brought up from New Orleans by a customer of owner and operator Steve Manolakis. The sign dates back to the 1920's. Feeding Hills Public Market is located on Springfield Street.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Karen Charbonneau Of Stearns & Yerrall Completes Specialized Training Course

Jim McKeon, President of Stearns & Yerrall, Inc. Realtors announces that Karen Charbonneau of the Agawam Sales Office has completed the specialized real estate business course entitled "Business Development for the Residential Specialist" conducted by the Residential Sales Council of the REALTORS NATIONAL MARKETING INSTITUTE.

The course was conducted in Springfield and is one of the required classes that must be taken by real estate agents and brokers who will eventually qualify for the coveted Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) designation.

The course covered the preparation of business plans, marketing programs, and operations budgets.

During the two-day course, students were subject to hands-on development of plans and programs designed to ensure the professionalism of the residential sales associates.

"There are many new marketing techniques that can effectively serve our real estate customers," said Charbonneau, "and I have already begun to apply the procedures covered during this course in my work at Stearns & Yerrall."

Residential Sales Council courses are presented in various cities throughout the United States by this group, part of the REALTORS NATIONAL MARKETING INSTITUTE, an affiliate of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS.

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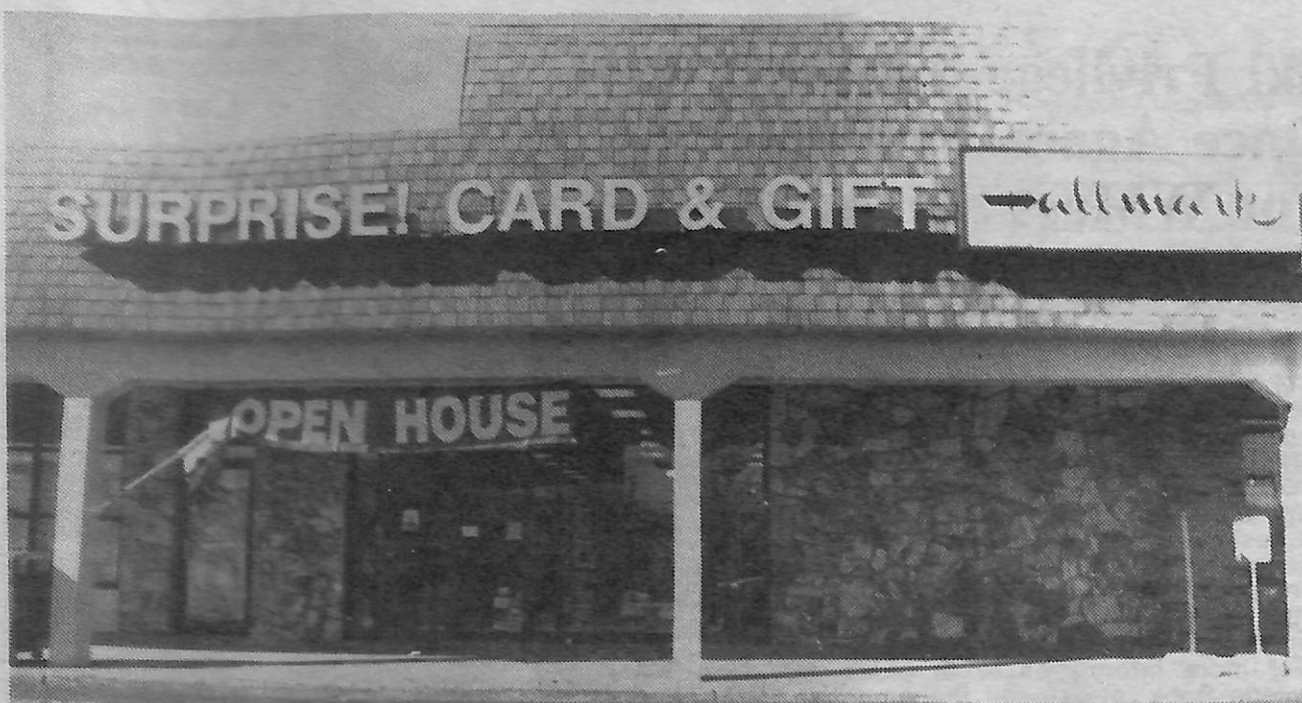
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786-1720

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And Experience To Work
For You*



Norman Townsend

Spotlight On Business - continued...



SURPRISE! CARD & GIFT SHOP owners Bob & Barbara McElligott are ecstatic about the prospects for the Southgate Shopping Plaza with the opening of Geissler's Supermarket and the reopening of the Agawam Cinemas. Surprise! is located next door to Geissler's. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

With Southgate Plaza Bustling Again, Owners Of Surprise! Gift Shop All Smiles

by Peggy Shoemaker
Advertiser News Feature Writer

The **Surprise! Card & Gift Shop** at 838 Suffield Street, Agawam is not your run-of-the-mill gift shop. Owned by Bob McElligott of Southwick, it offers unique, beautiful, quality gifts and is a Gold Crown Hallmark Card and Gift Shop.

Gold Crown means that the shop has the highest rating awarded by the Hallmark Corp., which evaluates its stores twice a year for appearance, displays, and excellence in service and satisfaction. "And we strive for excellence," McElligott said. **Surprise!** gets 50-60 percent of its merchandise from Hallmark.

The rest of the merchandise is selected by Bob and his wife, Barbara, during their semi-annual trips to national gift shows in New York, Atlanta, and at regional shows. Barbara supplies the woman's touch, working with display design and customers in busier seasons. She works full-time at Noble Hospital, Westfield, as a nuclear medicine technologist.

Bob was employed as a driver for 22 years by United Parcel Service in West Springfield, and always wanted to have his own business. Delivering packages to different types of businesses helped him decide on a gift shop. Ten years ago, an opportunity presented itself and he bought the former "Dolly Sisters." **Surprise!** is located next to the new **Geissler's Supermarket** and near **Southgate Liquor**.

Bob and his store are survivors. He praises the loyal, steady customers for enabling him to re-

main open when store after store has come and gone in the Southgate Plaza. Even when the two anchor stores, Ames and Big Y, were gone, and in 1990 a fire in the adjacent laundry caused damage and temporary closing, **Surprise!** came back.

"I didn't think I'd be able to stay open," Bob said in a recent interview, "but my loyal regular customers kept coming and I was able to make it." He is thrilled that Geissler's Supermarket has opened and is attracting customers back to the Southgate Plaza.

The pleasant scent of holiday candles and potpourri reach the customer entering the shop. In addition to the expected large selection of greeting cards for all occasions and gift wrappings, the store offers a selection of Hallmark holiday decorations all year, and right now, well displayed Christmas tree ornaments.

Hallmark ornaments are beautiful, unusual, and many are keepsakes. There is a fire engine with spinning wheels and the fireman's arm moves up and down, and a Statue of Liberty (with music of "The Star Spangled Banner"). Bob's favorite is a rooster in front of a chicken coop conducting a chorus of chicks singing "Jingle Bells."

A new group of ornaments are authentic replicas of kiddie cars of the 1930's. These were toddlers' pedal bikes that preceded tricycles. Many ornaments increase in value over time, Bob points out.

There is a wedding and anniversary section

with photo albums, cake servers, garters, cocktail glasses for toasting, etc. Gifts for babies are usable and decorative.

The assortment of albums include the expendable type and fillers for them. And there are lots of photo frames and diaries. Another section features sports gifts such as peaked caps, sweat-shirts, etc.

Some folks come just for the collectibles. Among them are Precious Moments, Snow Babies, and Dept. 56 Lighted Villages, Dreamscapes (which are figurine cherubs from Cast Art Co.), art glass, stuffed animals, including Boyd's Plush Bears, and "All God's Children" figurines of adults and children.

Also in the store are Stone Cutter Littles, a collection of animals with lots of dogs, sailboats suitable for mantle or bookcase, stuffed animals, decorated boxes, etc.

There are also decals, potpourri, bookmarks, and candy.

Among the shop's special services are complimentary gift wrapping and free layaway.

In addition to the McElligotts, there is one full-time employee, Amy Thieme, and part-timers Marilyn Curry, Lillian Bonomi, Alison Reseigne, Kelly Liard, and Leigh Donahue.

Surprise! Card and Gift Shop is open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, except Sunday, when the hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. After the holidays, Bob expects to be coordinating the closing hours with that of Geissler's Supermarket.

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"Victims" Of The Snowstorm!

Many area residents continue to recover from the first major snowstorm of the season. Twelve inches of wet, heavy snow downed trees and powerlines and crippled the region.

It also crippled quite a few of those who removed it. Arms, legs, and backs suffered, and we continue to see a significant number of "victims" from this storm.

One patient with resulting back and associated leg pain asked me to publish helpful hints regarding snow shoveling. Since the snow season has only just begun, please take note of the following timely hints.

Always exercise caution. Shoveling snow is one of the most physically stressful activities to your lumbar spine or low back. It is certainly one activity that will further injure an already weak low back.

Elderly are advised to give up shoveling altogether. Find a neighborhood kid who is ambitious enough to help you. Have your driveway plowed by a professional.

If that is not possible and you insist on shoveling your own driveway, then condition your back for several months ahead of the snow season.

Have a chiropractic examination. Perhaps your spine may benefit from chiropractic treatment. During the shoveling season, have regular chiropractic care to insure integrity of the back.

The same snow which causes heart stress also causes dangerous stress to the discs in the spine of the shoveler. When you consider that a shovel of snow weighs from five to seven pounds, you realize the tremendous accumulative weight one has to lift to clear even a small area. The average driveway or walk will hold hundreds of pounds of snow.

Try these helpful hints:

1. Dress warmly, but don't bundle up so as to make it difficult and awkward for you to move naturally.
2. Use a lightweight pusher-type shovel. Spray it with Teflon so snow will not cling to it.
3. Avoid sudden twists of the torso. Move the entire body.
4. Keep your back straight when you lift. Use your legs rather than your back.
5. Work slowly.
6. If you feel a twinge of back pain, stop completely and go inside the house, sit down, and rest.

If pain persists, or for a pre-season examination, call the **SCHLAFFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE**, 192 Shoemaker Lane, telephone number (413) 789-1369. We care about you!

All the local news with us, each week
ADVERTISER NEWS

Ski Privilege Books Once Again Available For WMass Ski Areas

The American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts and eight downhill ski areas are offering the Ski Privilege Book once again this year. The Ski Book offers over \$240 worth of skiing and services for a price of \$50.

All funds raised through this program benefit the American Lung Association's asthma and lung disease efforts in Western Massachusetts.

Participating ski areas are: Jiminy Peak Resort, Berkshire East Ski Area, Blandford Ski Area, Otis Ridge Ski Area, Brodie Mountain Resort, Butter-nut Basin, Catamount Ski Resort, and Wachusett Mountain.

In addition to free or discounted skiing, holders of the Ski Privilege Book also receive benefits at four area ski shops.

For more information or to order your Ski Privilege Book, please call the American Lung Association at 413-737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA.

La Lache League To Meet December 16th

If you have considered breastfeeding your baby but have questions about this womanly art, contact the West Springfield/Agawam La Leche League.

This month's meeting will be held on Monday, December 16th, at the Grace Lutheran Church. The discussion for the evening will include encouragement and information about breastfeeding.

For further information, call Chris at 736-3238.

Balance Disorders Aired At Mercy Hosp.

The next meeting of the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation's Balance Disorders and Dizziness Support Group is December 18th, 7:00 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center at Mercy Hospital.

The free sessions are open to those suffering from balance difficulties and chronic dizziness associated with disorders including Meniere's Disease, Acoustic Neuroma, Perilymph Fistula (PLF), Bilateral Paroxysmal Positional Nystagmus (BPPN), Endolymphatic Hydrops, Trigeminal Neuralgia, and Labyrinthitis; family and friends are also welcome.

For more information, call Lois Osetek, M.S., CCC/A, at (413) 748-6840.

Cancer Support Group At Noble Hospital

Noble Hospital's Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday, December 19, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A, located on the ground floor of the hospital.

The monthly support group is open to individuals with cancer and their families or support persons.

Registration is not required. For further information, please contact Ana Nunez, R.N., Oncology Department Noble Hospital, 568-2811, ext. 5698.



Chiropractic Care by Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic Physician
Hampden County Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, Here Comes The Snow!

It's that time of year again, time to pull out the gloves, boots, and shovels. This is often the time I see many patients coming in with acute low back pain.

Why? Because they think they can jump outside and shovel wet, heavy snow for hours without a problem. (Does this sound familiar?) So, let's start out right this winter.

1. **Stretch.** I know, I know, I'm always harping about this, but it is important to loosen the muscles before actively using them.

2. **Keep your back straight** — your back is the strongest in this position. Remember to keep your spine straight and try not to twist. Most injuries occur during the twisting and bending motion.

3. **Utilize your leg muscles** — they're very strong. Keep a slight bend in the knees and in the hips.

4. If you are sore after shoveling, **apply ice** to the low back for 10 to 15 minutes each hour. Ice decreases the pain.

If pain lasts longer than 24 hours, if very painful, or if any radiation into the legs — contact a chiropractor.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. She is available to answer questions on Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at 786-4820.

Breast Cancer Support At Mercy Hospital On Tues., Dec. 17th

The Breast Cancer Support Group, sponsored by the Women's Pavilion at Mercy Hospital, will meet on Tuesday, December 17th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Deliso Conference Center.

The group is open to women who have experienced mastectomy and other breast surgery, or who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Family and friends are welcome to attend and share their experiences and concerns.

For more information, call the Women's Pavilion, (413) 748-9080.

Queen Of Denial



(Yes, Carol, You Are 40!)



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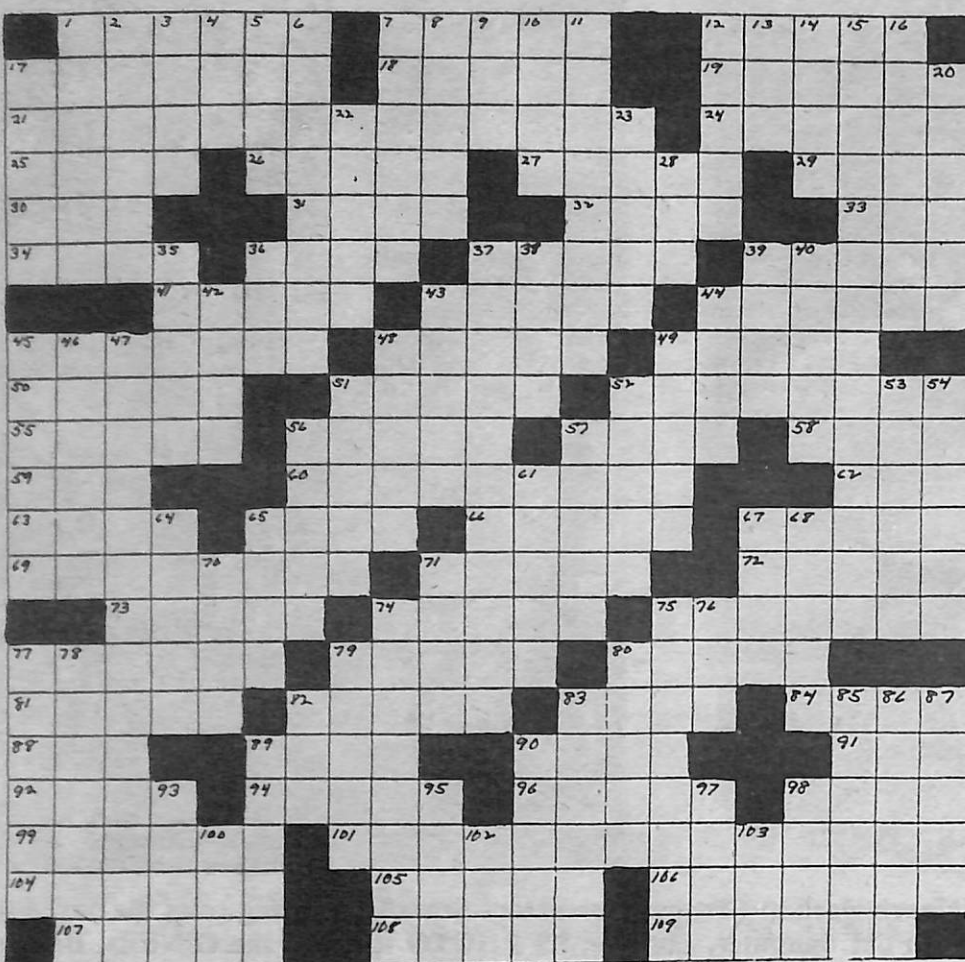
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- 7 Form
- 12 Conductor's wand
- 17 "Toe —"
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- 19 Omni et al
- 21 Shepherd novel (with "The")
- 24 Lease out (two words)
- 25 Temple athletes
- 26 Sudden burst of energy
- 27 Disconnect
- 29 Avoid
- 30 Abode in Soho
- 31 Durocher and Tolstoi
- 32 Depend on
- 33 Period of time
- 34 Buntline and others
- 36 Belfry residents
- 37 Verdi specialty
- 39 More irate
- 41 Ease up
- 43 Happening
- 44 This listing
- 45 Peter Rabbit's patch
- 48 Mooring rope holder
- 49 "— La"
- 50 Cupids
- 51 Map out a course
- 52 Passe
- 55 Sporting high to some
- 56 Actor George
- 57 Tarzan's movie mate
- 58 Dub
- 59 Matched pair
- 60 Rural pleasure stop-over
- 62 Weld for one (abbr.)
- 63 Son of Aphrodite
- 65 Call's son in "Lonesome Dove"
- 66 Checks for errata
- 67 Torrent
- 69 Texas Rangers once
- 71 Dundee's mates?
- 72 T.V.'s Alf
- 73 Mexican laborers
- 74 007 portrayer
- 75 Returns to trial
- 77 Tarpon Springs product
- 79 "As — The Eye Can ..."
- 80 S.A.C. leader once
- 81 Riata
- 82 Emulated Cigar
- 83 Creator of "Lena the Hyena"
- 84 "— For Your Supper"
- 88 Canadian province
- 89 Nutmeg spice
- 90 Hand-me-down item in a song
- 91 Once named
- 92 Prefix for trooper



- 94 Copiers
 - 96 Unger's roomie
 - 98 Jason's craft
 - 99 French schools
 - 101 A sentence from "Loch Lomond"
 - 104 Fine-grained rocks
 - 105 Savor
 - 106 Flow from
 - 107 Roman magistrate
 - 108 Harriets
 - 109 Break a cipher
- ### DOWN
- 1 Missourian's words
 - 2 Made better
 - 3 Early carmaker
 - 4 Humorous one
 - 5 Baseball's Slaughter
 - 6 What an agency does
 - 7 Tropical fruits
 - 8 French waves
 - 9 Numero number
 - 10 Gish and Russell
 - 11 That which conveys
 - 12 Actor Fitzgerald
 - 13 Surface measurement
 - 14 Cardinal numbers
 - 15 Kuralt's theme song?
 - 16 "— Laws"
- 17 Scottish golfing mecca
 - 20 Sub detectors
 - 22 Mountain crest
 - 23 Observable
 - 28 High note in music
 - 35 Cavalry sword (Fr.)
 - 36 Purse
 - 37 "—" driver (teamster)
 - 38 Type of moss
 - 39 "Sting" operation
 - 40 Manmade fabric
 - 42 Rope fiber
 - 43 African cape elk
 - 44 SNL's Johnson
 - 45 Makes happen
 - 46 Electrical measurement
 - 47 Famed New England highway
 - 48 Commit fraud
 - 49 Things we hum
 - 51 Yellowstone basin Indians
 - 52 Tobacco kilns
 - 53 Declaimed
 - 54 One-time fort in Mass.
 - 56 Fox and Rabbit
 - 57 Simpson's nickname
 - 61 Aromas

Last Week's Solution...

S	O	N	A	R	G	R	A	B	P	E	L	T		
T	R	A	D	E	L	A	N	E	A	S	E	A		
A	R	M	S	T	R	O	N	G	C	U	S	T	E	R
R	A	E	R	O	O	T	A	N	S	E	R	S		
S	E	A	M	O	L	D	E							
S	C	R	E	A	M	I	M	M	E	R	S	E		
A	R	E	N	T	S	T	E	E	R	T	R	I	Y	
L	I	N	T	B	L	E	N	D	C	A	N	E		
T	E	T	T	R	A	M	S	R	O	B	I	N		
R	E	G	R	E	T	S	M	E	S	S	E	S		
R	O	E	S	R	A	F	T							
U	N	S	O	L	D	A	E	R	O	B	R	O		
B	A	T	T	L	E	O	F	B	U	L	L	R	U	N
E	R	A	T	R	A	R	E	D	E	A	N	E		
R	E	W	O	S	T	A	T	S	T	E	T	S		

Holiday Stories At The Agawam Library

Storyteller Lester Scafidi will perform a "December Holidays" program at the Agawam Library on Saturday, December 14th, at 11:00 a.m. with songs and stories about Hanukkah, Christmas, and the Winter Solstice.

Lester has been performing throughout New England for more than 25 years and believes that "listening, singing, and telling is our way of sharing with each other what is important, and learning how to live together."

The public is invited to register for the event by calling the library at 789-1550 or by stopping by at 750 Cooper Street.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 93 "— Want For Christmas..." | 98 Pisa's river |
| 95 Three-person card game | 100 Slippery fish |
| 97 "Tony —" (Sinatra's movie tec.) | 102 Educated guess (abbr.) |
| | 103 Amazons of WWII |

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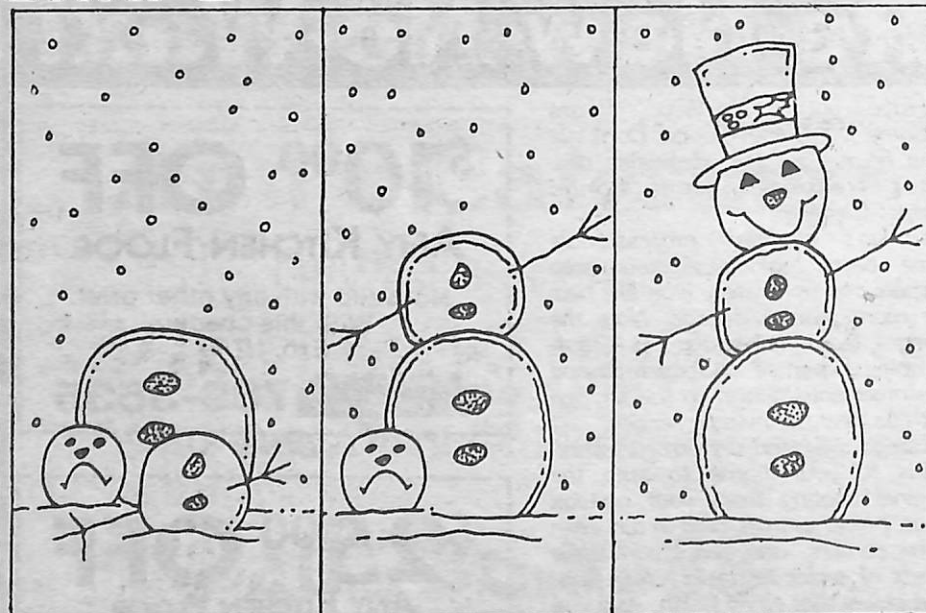
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Education



TGIF IS ESPECIALLY TRUE each week at Granger Elementary School as reading rules the day. From left - Maureen Pafumi reads with her daughter, Lindsay; IN PHOTO RIGHT, the O'Neills, Beth and Sarah, enjoy reading a story together. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Every Friday Is Special Reading Day For Students & Teachers At Granger

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Everyone looks forward to the end of the work week. We've even invented an acronym to celebrate the start of the weekend. TGIF is especially true at Granger School where every week, the entire school, from the principal to the students to the custodian, waits for the DEAR announcement: "It's time to Drop Everything And Read!"

The students and staff have been ending their work week by reading for the sheer enjoyment of a book for the past two years. Last month, Principal Phyllis Lewis invited the parents to drop everything and come to join the fun by celebrating Family Literacy Day with their children and a good book.

Judging by the number of parents streaming toward the building just minutes before the expected DEAR announcement, Mrs. Lewis isn't the only believer in the importance of literacy as a family matter.

Nearly half of the parents in Kathleen Heimann's third grade class were able to come to

the school and read with their children and their classmates. Some kids read to their parents; some kids wanted to be read to; some wanted time alone with their mom or dad; and some included a friend or two for a reading party.

Whatever the choice of reading partner or reading material, the classroom was alive with the happy sounds of parents and kids sharing a joke, an adventure, or a mystery within the pages of a book.

Mrs. Heimann said the idea behind the DEAR program was to encourage the children to relax and read just for the enjoyment of a good book.

"We're trying to institute good habits with independent reading time," Mrs. Heimann said. "Reading is a skill the children have to practice. If they don't read, they're not going to do well. We want them to read just to keep in practice."

Children Look Forward To Reading...

Mrs. Heimann said the children look forward to the independent reading time because there is no

pressure to perform or have the right answer. They're just taking some time to relax, unwind, and enjoy their reading, she noted.

Christin Peters said she was a little worried that her mom might not be able to come to DEAR. But, as far as Diane Peters was concerned, there was no chance that she'd pass up the opportunity to spend some one-on-one reading time with her daughter.

"Christin started writing her own books at the age of four, so there was no way I could stay away today," Mrs. Peters said. "We have a lot going on with books at our house."

With her three best friends, Christin publishes a series of stories called "The Three Best Friends." Keely Conte is the sketch artist, Daniella Russo does the coloring, and Christin writes the stories of the friends' adventures. The girls' latest story opens with a field trip to the White House and ends with the friends taking over the executive mansion.

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THE ANNUAL FAMILY LUNCH DAY was recently held at Robinson Park Elementary School. From left - Robinson student Kirsten Patrick with her parents, John and Carol; IN PHOTO RIGHT, Susan Jenney invited members of her family to the lunch - Debbie, Jacob, and Barb. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

“Family Lunch Day” A Big Hit At Robinson School

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At Robinson Park School, the verdict is unanimous. Family Lunch Day is second only to Fun Day as one of the most eagerly anticipated annual events.

The kids enjoy being in the driver's seat to show off their lunch room savvy; the parents enjoy taking some time from their busy schedules to socialize with their children and meet school friends and their parents; and the principal and teachers welcome the public relations boost in having parents experience a part of their children's school day.

Principal William Sapelli said the Family Lunch Day is the one school function he receives the most compliments on.

“I enjoy having the public come into the building and see what our school has to offer,” Sapelli said. “The parents are getting the chance to see what the school lunch program is all about and see what their kids are getting for a buck.”

A cooperative effort of the school's PTO and the Adelphi Committee, Family Lunch Day was first introduced five years ago. Since then, the

program has been fine-tuned to the point where it practically runs itself.

Sapelli explained that a day is set aside for each grade level to entertain their parents at a special lunch session. It means more work for the cafeteria and custodial staff, but the staff couldn't be more cooperative and supportive, Sapelli said.

On the day the fourth graders welcomed their parents, nearly 100 extra lunches were served.

Great “Public Relations”...

Fourth grade teacher Andrew Bower told us, “This is the best thing a school can do in terms of public relations. I wish all the schools did this. It's the only time for teachers to sit down with the kids and their parents in a social setting. The good will that carries over to the classroom is enormous.”

Barb Jenney, along with her daughter, Debbie, and grandson, Jacob, was delighted to join fourth grader Susan for a meatball grinder.

“This is a wonderful idea. It's fun for the children to have mom come to school for lunch,” Mrs. Jenney said.

Cyndie Green and her daughter Kristina agreed. “It's an enjoyment for me to come to school and have lunch with my daughter. This is a special time at school for the parents and for the kids,” Mrs. Green said.

The Family Lunch Day is a yearly tradition for John & Carol Patrick, who both took time from work to have lunch with their daughter, Kirsten. Mrs. Patrick said it was worth it to stay late at work in order to take the time at lunch.

“We think it's important to come to school and participate with your kids. The kids would be disappointed if we didn't come and so would we,” Patrick said.

Chairing the family lunch committee, Karen Ripke said her second grade son Kurt enjoys showing her where to sit and where to get the lunch trays.

“This is the only time the kids get to show their parents what to do at school,” Mrs. Ripke said.

Marlene Chretien said her son Justin enjoyed showing off his friends and teachers at the third grade family lunch.



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AHS Guidance...

by Judith Cohen
Guidance Coordinator
AHS Guidance Dept.

PSAT Scores

On Tuesday, December 4th, PSAT scores were distributed to those Juniors and Sophomores who had taken the test in October. To help you understand these tests and their importance, please read the following.

If you have any questions, do call your youngster's counselor, who will be delighted to sit down with you and your child to further discuss the PSATs.

What does the PSAT measure?

It measures general math and verbal reasoning abilities. It assesses the ability to reason with facts and concepts rather than the ability to recall and recite them. Much emphasis is placed on critical reading and math problem-solving.

What kinds of questions are on the test?

The PSAT is a two-hour test. There are 58 verbal questions presented in two 30-minute sections. The verbal section is comprised of sentence completions, analogies, and critical reading.

There are 50 mathematics questions presented in two 30-minute sections with multiple-choice, quantitative comparison, and student-produced responses. The test is divided among arithmetic reasoning, algebra, and geometry.

How is the PSAT scored?

For each correct response, a student receives one full point. For wrong answers, a student loses one-fourth point on the verbal and either one-third or one-fourth point on the math, depending upon the section.

Points are totaled, then converted to scores on the PSAT scale of 20 to 80. To compare this to the SAT, simply add a 0 to the score (e.g., 58 equals 580).

What is the Selection Index?

This is obtained by doubling the verbal score and adding the mathematics score to the product. The Index score is used as an initial screen of the participants to see who qualifies for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

What percentiles are provided?

Percentiles for College-Bound Juniors are provided to assist the student in knowing where he/she stands in relation to others who have taken the test.

What is the Score Range?

No test is absolutely accurate, so it's best to think of the score as an average. This gives an idea of what other scores the participant might receive if the test were administered several times.

What do the answers suggest?

The answers are all given, and a "plus" sign means the answer is correct; "0" means the answer was omitted; and other letters show the

participant's answer choice.

Since students receive their original test book along with their scores, they are able to go back to questions they got wrong, go back to ones they omitted, and to learn from their mistakes.

What thought should be given to PSAT scores?

These scores give the students an idea of how well they will do on the SATs. This allows them to get some general idea of the types of colleges to which they should be making application.

PSATs are preliminary and that is important to remember. Scores can rise with practice and study. This has been proven. Therefore, a student with lower scores than he/she thought would have occurred, should not despair. Instead, the scores should serve as a reminder that there is room for improvement! Also, the scores serve as a guide so that the student will be realistic with goals, aspirations, and schools.

Some parents feel that we dissuade a student from applying to certain schools; instead, I would say we are trying to have the student be realistic so that he/she will not be hurt in the college application process. We want each student to go to a college where he/she will be able to perform well and not feel intimidated.

This winter, we are trying to collaborate with the Princeton Review to offer a practice test for our Juniors. Then, this test will be scored and students will know where their weak spots occur so they will know what areas need improvement.

If you feel your youngster would be interested in doing this, please call the guidance office. For a nominal fee, the Princeton Review staff will hold a meeting to go over the results and offer suggestions to the participants. Do call us so we can plan accordingly.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Congratulations!

Patti Olson: West Virginia University.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES: If you are interested in meeting with any of the following college representatives, you should sign up at least a day in advance in the guidance office.

December 16th: Art Institute of Boston, 12:15;

Morse School of Business, 9:00.

December 17th: West Point, 1:00

SCHOLARSHIPS: See Mrs. Williams for more information.

Zonta International Scholarship: Open to young women who plan to pursue a career in public affairs, public policy, or community organizations. Deadline: January 31, 1997.

Scouts At Storowton



CUB SCOUT PACK 75 recently paid a visit to Old Storowton Village. Back row - Curt Barker, Dan Silva, Andrew Johnson, and Mike Theriault. Middle row - Greg Gay and Jim Pietroniro. Front row - Matt Draghetti, Shawn Santos, and Peter Wiernasz.

The following colleges are offering scholarships to students who attend there:
James Madison University
Regis College
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Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 16th: Cheese pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and Italian dressing, chilled rosy applesauce, milk.

Tuesday, December 17th: Roast turkey with gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned diced carrots, dinner roll, white cake with chocolate icing, milk.

Wednesday, December 18th: Baked macaroni with cheese sauce, seasoned niblet corn, bread and butter, fresh apple or jello with topping, milk.

Thursday, December 19th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, steamed parsley rice, seasoned carrots, wheat bread and butter, applesauce, chocolate cake with vanilla icing, milk.

Friday, December 20th: Steamed frankfort in roll, buttered vegetables, potato rounds with catsup, chocolate pudding or fruit cup, milk.

Agawam Students Playing With College Symphony

The Westfield State College Wind Symphony has scheduled two holiday concerts in Springfield this season. The first performance was held at the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral on December 8th, and the second concert will be at the Old First Church on December 15th at 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.

For over a decade, the Westfield State College Wind Symphony has delighted audiences of over 1,000 people with its performances that have generated over \$4,000 annually for the Cancer Society.

Symphony director Karen LaVoie said the concert offers the 46 student musicians the chance to perform regionally and get a feel for the pressures of performing professionally.

Area students who are performing with the Wind Symphony are Lynne Carra of Agawam and Amy Wisniewski of Feeding Hills.

Marching Mohawks Getting Ready For Spring Trip To Disney World

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Each year, the Agawam High School Marching Mohawks open their season at the Big E parading down the avenue in front of the State Buildings, and they make their final appearance at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke. This year, the band will make one more parade appearance, but it won't be for a local audience.

On Friday, May 9th, the band and colorguard will end their season in a parade at Walt Disney World as invited performers in the Disney Magic Music Days festival. Before marching at Disney World, the Agawam musicians will compete in the All-American Music Festival in Orlando at University High School.

Band Director Tamara Watson said the concert, jazz, and marching bands, along with the colorguard, have been selected to perform at the All-American Music Festival with several other bands from across the country.

"The festival is by invitation only and we were selected from our audition tape," Miss Watson said. "The kids have been asking when we're going on a far trip and now we're going on a far trip."

Not only is the Orlando trip the farthest trip the band has ever taken, it's also the most expensive and the students will be working harder than usual to raise the necessary funds. In addition to selling candy, pies, and citrus fruit, the band will hold their Annual Auction on Martin Luther King Day in January, sponsor a volleyball tournament, and plans are in the works for a fashion show, Miss Watson said.

Candy & Wrapping Paper Sales Were Successes

Junior drum major Jennifer Smlst said the candy sale has been very successful, and the fall wrapping paper sale was the most successful the band has held.

"The trip is so expensive so the kids have been working hard. They really want to go," Jennifer

said. "I've seen the Disney parade on vacation with my family, and I'm looking forward to being a performer this year."

Most of the band members are excited at the prospect of going to Florida. But, some students, especially first-time fliers, have concerns about the flight.

"I'd rather take the kids on a three-hour flight than on a 10-hour bus ride," Miss Watson said. "Some kids are nervous, but statistics show it's much safer to fly than to drive."

Colorguard captain **Michelle Ingalls** visited Disney World when she was eight years-old and didn't go on many of the rides, but this time it will be different.

"I'm going to go on all those scary rides with my friends," Michelle said. "This is going to be a really cool trip. It's bigger than anything we've ever done, and our days will be jam-packed with activities."

Senior drum major **Sarah Shepard** will be making her fourth visit to Disney World. And that's fine with her — she'd go a million times if she could.

"This will probably be my best trip because it's so much fun to be with everyone in the band. It's great to spend time together after we've worked so hard all during the year," Sarah said. "Working with Miss Watson and the students gives me the sense of belonging to a group where everyone cares about each other."

Both drum majors agreed that the band would be ready to give a great performance in Florida.

"The kids have worked hard and they've come a long way since August," Sarah said. "The music is sounding better, and we finished our competitions with a silver medal."

Jennifer added, "The kids all seem to be dedicated to what they're doing. I hope we represent the town and the state well."

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Matthew P. Normand Recognized By "Who's Who"

Matthew P. Normand of Agawam has been named to the 1997 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. He is the son of Paul Normand of Easthampton and Beverly Normand of Agawam.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since 1934. The students named to this edition were nominated by campus nominating committees and the editors of the directory based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.

Normand is a senior, and is majoring in psychology. He has served as a student ambassador.

Western New England College is a private comprehensive coeducational institution located on a 185-acre suburban campus in Springfield, with an additional 16 sites throughout the Commonwealth. The College serves its 4,500 students with undergraduate programs in its Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering, and graduate programs in its Schools of Business, Engineering, and Law.

AHS Students Get Recognition From Regional Collaborative

Five Agawam High School students were among those recognized by the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative Vocational-Technical Education Center that have demonstrated some or all of the following:

- * The ability to apply effectively the skills taught.

- * Exemplary behavior towards other students and staff.

- * An above average willingness to work and accept new work.

- * An outstanding attitude of cooperation.

- * Continued good attendance in the program.

- * A strong desire to contribute to the program and the Voc-Tech Center.

Local Students of the Month were **Jennifer Stacy** (Allied Health); **Katie Wells** (Fashion Design); **Ray Olkowski** (Food Service); **Joe Fleming** (Graphic Arts); and **Jessica Irby** (Technical Careers).

Thanksgiving Feast At Clark School



JAMES CLARK SCHOOL first graders presented "The Feast of Thanksgiving" before the holiday break. Cast members included Kyle Van Etten, Lindsay Strole, Nick Slicch, Julie Ayn Montalvo, Nichole Diduk, Zachary Shirley, Travis Ritter, Lauren Siedel, Rachel Martin, Sean Walsh, Nick Abraham, Derek Bouthiller, Joey Largay, Austin Bodzioch, Dionna Kozak, Christina Nasuti, Kyle Farrelly, Inna Dzhengerukha, Jalenna Enriquez, Sean Land, Christina Paquette, Maria Graziano, Margaret Sheehan, and Katie Schebel. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Jr. High PTO To Meet On December 16

The next meeting of the Agawam Junior High School PTO will take place on Monday, December 16th, at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.



Cecilia P. Calabrese
Attorney at Law

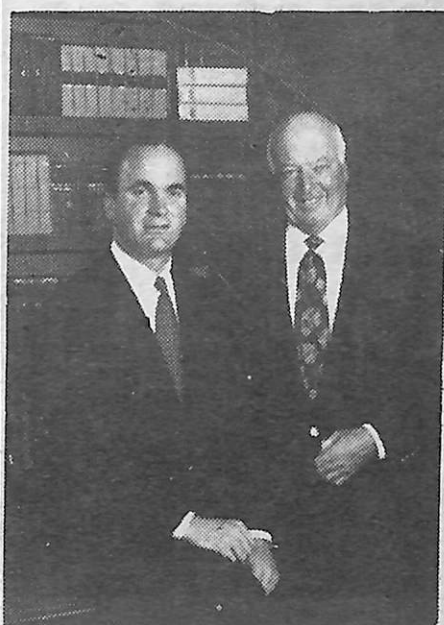


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Busy Season Continues For Brownie Troops



IN PHOTO LEFT, Robinson Park Brownie Troop 559 visited Pell's Farm in Somers, CT. The girls had fun picking out their own pumpkins. They also enjoyed going on a ponyride. **IN PHOTO RIGHT,** Brownie Troop 551 at James Clark School participated in a "First Aid" Try-It! Brownies Kelly Macintyre and Brittany Michel (left to right) work on "accident" victim Leah Marsh.

WNEC Presents Two From Town Master's In Business Adm.

Thomas M. Cruz of Feeding Hills and Susan M. Wands of Westfield both received a Master of Business Administration degree from Western New England College on October 15, 1996.

Cruz is the son of Deanne and Manuel Cruz, Jr. of Agawam.

Wands is the daughter of Frederick and Christine Harpin of Agawam.

Western New England College is a private coeducational institution located on a 185-acre suburban campus in Springfield, MA, with an additional 16 sites throughout the Commonwealth.

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Warning Notices To Be Issued At AHS By Friday, December 20th

Agawam Senior High School warning notices will be issued by Friday, December 20, 1996.

Mr. Joseph Zabielski, Principal, Mr. Paul C. Cavallo, Deputy Principal, and Mrs. Bernadette J. Conte, Dean of Students, would like to take this opportunity to wish all Agawam High School students and their families a very happy holiday season.

Tech Class Of 1947 Plans 50th Reunion

Springfield Technical High School's Class of 1947 announces its 50th Reunion celebration will be held in June 1997 at the Ramada Inn, West Springfield.

A three-day weekend of events is planned, including Classmate Reception, Friday evening, June 20th; Banquet, Dancing, and Entertainment, Saturday evening, June 21st; and Farewell Breakfast, Sunday, June 22nd.

For more information, or if you can help locate classmates, please call Walter at 525-2979, Al at 525-7020, or Marion at 572-3060.

Some classmates not located are: Caesar Capodagli, Diane Colton Maklary, Joseph A. Coppola, Chester Dzwilewski, Earl Mori, Frank Okarmus, Ray B. Smith, Henry Swieskowski, Anna Vetti Allen, and Peter E. Zakowich.

Middle School Bus No. 6 Will Now Stop At New Location

The Agawam Public Schools is notifying the public that Bus No. 6 (Middle School) at the corner of Hendom and South Westfield Streets is being moved up the hill and will stop at Hendom/Hickory and Beech/Elmar to circumvent any potential safety concerns arising from snow-bound sidewalks and winter vehicular traffic.

The public is reminded that the safety of our children should be a matter of community concern. The school department must be able to rely on the cooperation of our citizens to keep walkways clear where children walk to school.

The town and school department cannot subsume the responsibility that comes with the ownership of property in the Town of Agawam. Our decision to change this bus stop and for a short duration to pick up any children found walking in the street on their way to school is our attempt to provide a safe route to school.

It is our hope that the community property owners will do their share to ensure the safety of our children by complying with town ordinances governing sidewalks and walkways.

Holiday Concerts At Middle School & Agawam High School

The Agawam School Department invites the public to attend the following holiday concerts:

Wednesday, December 18th: Middle School

Thursday, December 19th: High School

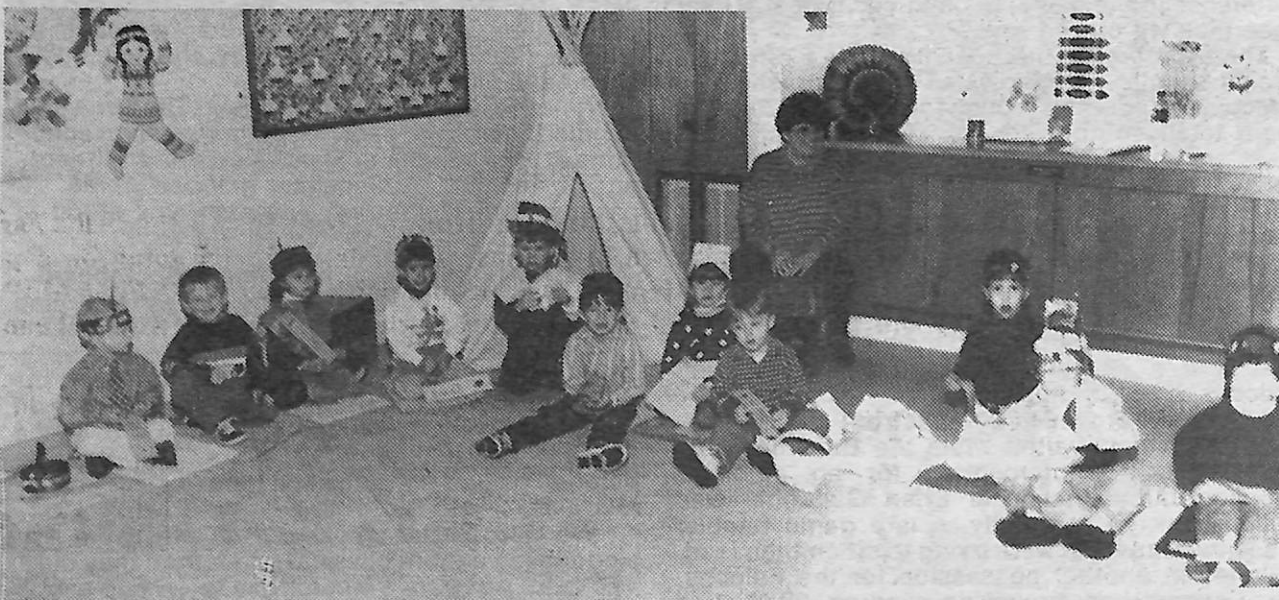
All performances will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at each school. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students. Senior citizens will be admitted free.

Join us in the spirit of giving by bringing canned food and dry goods for donation to the Open Pantry. Come and enjoy our bands and choruses as we celebrate the diverse cultures that make this season so special.

The Children's Center Holds Turkey Program



THE CHILDREN'S CENTER at the Agawam United Methodist Church held a Thanksgiving Program on Tuesday, November 26th, to celebrate the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Chamber Helps Agawam Educators



SEVERAL EDUCATORS from the Agawam Schools received mini-grant donations from the Agawam Chamber of Commerce. From left - Rita Ducharme, Agawam Chamber; and Agawam educators Janice DeFilipi, Kathy Gomes, Tammy Watson, and John Burns.

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Sports

After Miserable Start, AHS Football Strings Together Strong 5-1 Run

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Before the 1996 football season commenced, Agawam High football Coach Dean Vecchiarelli assured the faithful that his team would only get better as the competition progressed. When the team served up an 0-4 record early on, some of the faithful's faith might have wavered. But Vec, his coaches, and his team never lost their faith, proving as much by going 5-1 over their next six games to finish up at 5-5.

The first game of the season was up at drizzly Northampton. They would play 'Hamp to a 0-0 tie at the half. The eventual 11-0 and Super Bowl-bound Blue Devils won it, 21-15. But they had a scare put into them on that night. "A runback of a punt and we got beat deep on a pass play was the difference in the game," Coach Vec noted. "Other than that, we played well."

The next week, the coach couldn't offer any praise at all. The Brownies were thrashed by Chicopee and their option offense, 54-20. "We were totally outplayed. Our defense just didn't have enough experience against that type of offense," the coach said. Then he added, "They threw us right out of our game plan." The Agawam record suddenly stood at 0-2.

After an open date, they hosted Minnechaug on October 4th. At one point in the first half, Agawam led 21-0. They were still on top, 27-15 at the half. Senior Phil McGeoghan had the partisans on their feet with a 70 yard (TD) punt return. But the Falcons didn't fold up.

Brownies Self-Destruct

Instead, they waited while the Brownies self-destructed. An interception for an apparent touchdown by linebacker Brian Gallagher was called back on a penalty. A late game fumble, while the Brownies were trying to sit on their lead, resulted in another possession for the Falcons. They scored and wound up winning, 28-27. Vec just shook his head. "It was a bad night," he said. At that point in the season, Agawam could have just as easily been 2-1, but the reality was 0-3.

Holyoke was next, up there. The Purple Knights were tough. They led the Brownies 21-3 at the half. The locals outscored the Knights, 20-7 in the second half and lost 28-23. "The second half of that game was the turning point in our season," Vec observed. "We had Mike Wing back from an injury. He helped out our defensive backfield. Brian Gallagher started to become effective at fullback (nine carries/99 yards)."

Also in that game, junior quarterback Eric Melbourne went 8-17 for 138 yards and two TD's. His three interceptions hurt. But he was learning fast.

South Hadley came calling on October 18th. Last year, the Tigers embarrassed the Brownies at their place. This time around, Agawam won, 34-13. Jeff Blews had 11 carries for 91 yards. McGeoghan had two TD catches and an exciting 80 yard kickoff return for a score. After four

straight losses, the Brownies finally had one in the left hand column. "That game showed us we could win," Vec smiled.

The locals hosted and beat Westfield, 21-3, a week later in a game that featured some of the most ferocious hitting of the season. "They were big and strong. But they didn't have any really skilled players. We also kept our mistakes to a minimum," Vec noted, as his club climbed to 2-4.

The Brownies only made one mistake a week later in their game against visiting Central (and Super Bowl champion). They failed to stop tailback Sha-Ki Wheeler, who raced for a 60-yard score in the first quarter. It gave the Golden Eagles a 7-0 leader. That score would be it for the game. The Brownies played the Super Bowl winner Eagles, who ended up at 9-2, as tough as anyone. "Except for that one play, the final might have been 0-0," Vec admitted.

Winless Cathedral came in next. The Brownies handled them with ease, 29-18, in monsoon conditions at Harmon Smith Field. Blews had 176 yards on 24 carries. McGeoghan grabbed three TD passes from Melbourne. Agawam now stood at 3-5.

Agawam Dominates The Game & Scoreboard

Then, seven days later, the Brownies found themselves up at Chicopee Comp. At the time, the Colts were 8-1 and driving for a Super Bowl berth. Agawam completely dominated the game and the scoreboard, winning 31-8. Blews had 164 yards on the ground. McGeoghan stunned the Colts with a 70 yard end-around for a score. The Brownie defense played the game like there was no tomorrow.

"We were better prepared than they were. We also played a more physical game than they did," Vec said. Agawam's record rose to 4-5 and set up their Thanksgiving day showdown with arch-rival West Springfield.

The Brownies whipped their hosts, 29-12. They would have handed West Side a nice turkey day bagel but Vec had his backup people in for most of the fourth quarter (when the Terriers scored on two desperation passes). "They were throwing the ball against my reserves," Vec noted. "Those kids deserved to play in the final game, so we got them in." He couldn't help but smile. "It's always fun beating West Springfield."

The high point of the season for the coach was the Thanksgiving Day win over West Side. The low point was obviously the debacle against Min-

nechaug.

Things look good for the future. They will lose McGeoghan, Blews, Bryan Menard, and a trio of talented linemen in Rich Skowrya, Geoff Biebel, and Chris Olson.

"We have seven returning starters coming back on defense and five starters back on offense," Coach Vec said.

During the off-season, according to Vec, the players will be on an intensive weight program at the High School. He stresses that such a program is purely voluntary. However, he hopes the players will take advantage of it. Workouts will be monitored by the coaches.

BROWNIE NOTES: Agawam ended up winning five of their last six games to finish at 5-5 and 3-3 in the AA Conference. The record was good enough for third place behind Super Bowl bound Central (8-2, 6-0) and number two 'Comp (8-3, 4-2). Agawam's record over the first five games of the season was 1-4, with the lone win coming at home 34-13 against South Hadley on October 18th, breaking a four game Brownie losing streak. During that stretch, Agawam gave up 144 points for a 28.8 ppg average. They scored 119 (23.8 ppg). The big blow was a 54-20 loss to Chicopee and their option offense at Szot Park on September 20th.

The second half of the season saw them reverse the first half record and go 4-1. Their only loss, sandwiched between a 21-3 win over Westfield and three straight victories to end the season, was a tough 7-0 loss to visiting Central on November 1st. During the second half, they scored 110 points (22 ppg) and gave up only 48 (9.6 ppg). Their season scoring totals read 229 points for (22.9 ppg) and 192 against (19.2).

Phil McGeoghan, with his 14 TD receptions and three on the ground, wound up with 17 TD's and the AA scoring title (102 points). Jeff Blews had 11 TD's and a two point conversion for 68 total points. He ended the season tied with 'Comp's Bill Pagel and Holyoke's David Guzman for fourth place on the AA scoring chart. Only McGeoghan (number one), Marcus Humber of Holyoke (number two with 90 points), and Central's Sha-Ki Wheeler (number three with 86) had better numbers.

And it can be said again that the 1996 Agawam football brownies were the best 5-5 team in Western Mass.

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Backbone Of Running & Passing Attack For AHS Was Strong Line

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

There is perhaps no sport where a group of competitors goes more unnoticed than in football. All other sports afford an athlete a chance, however minor or major, to shine in front of the fans. This is not the case in football. There is one group which almost never gets any attention or accolades at all. They are the guys who man the offensive line. Somehow, it doesn't seem fair.

The late, great Vince Lombardi said many times, "Football is blocking and tackling." Truer words were never uttered.

But while folks can appreciate the hard and many times spectacular hits provided by tough tackling, equally tough and skilled blocking brings hardly anyone out of their seats. But it's the guys who put people on the seat of their pants out on the field who dictate how the action will go.

There's isn't a football coach around who doesn't cherish a top-notch offensive line if he can find one. After all, even a great running back needs some kind of hole to get by the behemoths who staff the defensive line. A quarterback needs time to throw the football to his fleet wideouts, which is hard to do when a 250-pound guy with a bad attitude is breathing down your neck. An offensive line gets beat up and beat on in their pursuit of making sure the enemy pursuit doesn't upset their offensive appcart. They do it in silence, aware they are not the ones in the spotlight.

Five Tough Guys...

The Agawam High School football team had five tough guys this season — guys who were as responsible as the high-profile players for a 5-5 record and five wins in their last six games of the just-completed campaign.

They are senior center **Adam Kimball** (5'11, 180), junior guard **Ryan Wilson** (5'11", 185), senior guard **Rich Skowrya** (6'1", 190), junior tackle **Darrell Malachowski** (6'4", 220), and senior tackle **Chris Olson** (6'1", 210).

SEE STRONG LINE - Page 43...



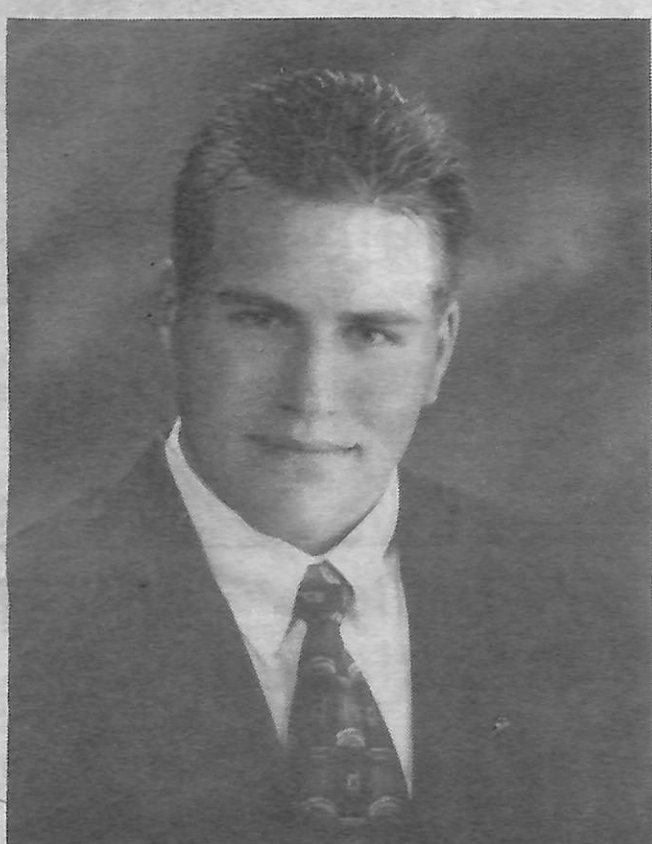
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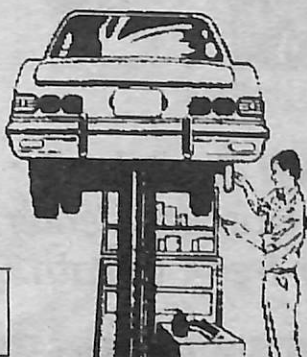
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STRONG LINE - from Page 42...

Wilson laughed when asked if not getting much attention bothered him. "No. I'm a lineman; that's my job. It will always be the backs and others who get noticed. That's just the way it is."

The others all agreed that it's a thankless job. And if you watched the Brownie football 10 practice way out on the back field after school, you'll see that line work is also hard work.

Their favorite plays are 56 power and 55 power. They are straight, run-blocking situations which go to the right and left, respectively. Malachowski particularly likes 55 power. "It's to my side of the line and I can always count on 'Blewsie' (Jeff Blews) to bust right through the hole."

Because they are juniors and seniors, they've had time to play together. Some have been sidekicks since their Suburban Youth Football League days. That helps. "We get to know each other's moves. We're fast off the ball as a unit. We help each other out, too. Having played together for a while also boosts our confidence. We all know we can play against anybody," Olson noted.

All but one said run blocking was more fun than blocking on a pass play. The one holdout was (center) Kimball. "I like pass blocking because I get to use what I feel is my best asset — speed." He also likes his position because, at times, the defensive set has no man over him. Then he gets to help out his linemates.

Skowrya noted run blocking suits him because "I get to be aggressive when we keep the ball on the ground."

A "Change" In The 1996 Season...

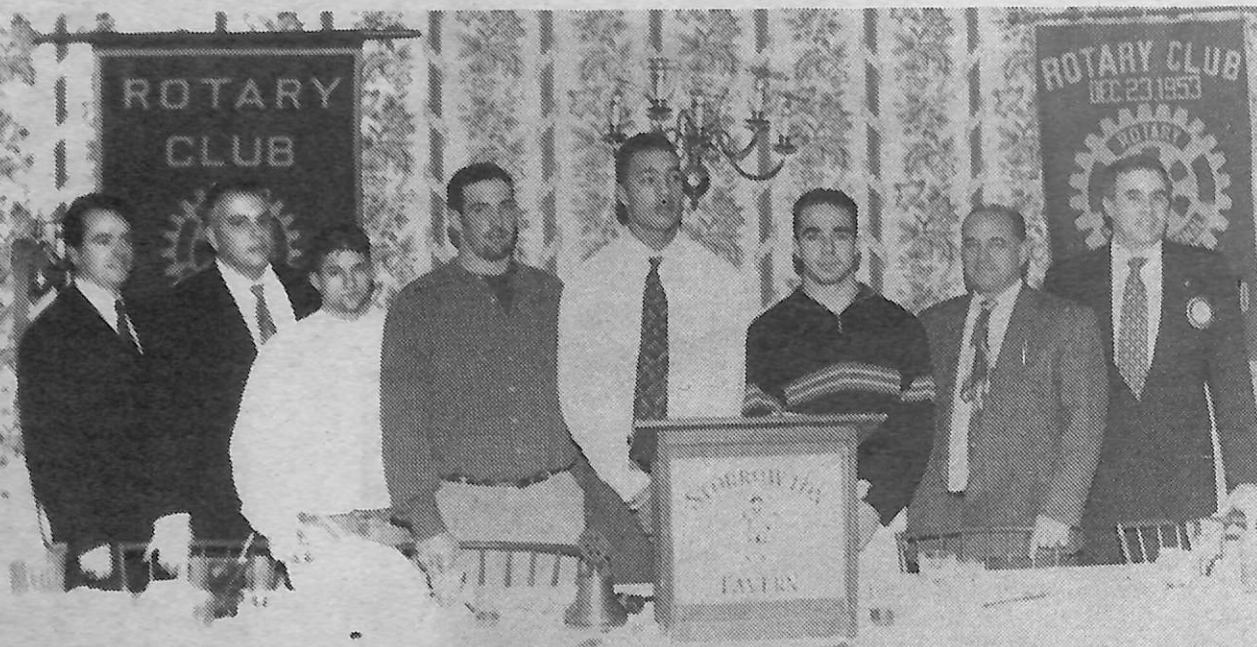
All felt the season began to change for them, as well as the whole team, on or around October 18th, when they beat visiting South Hadley, 34-13. Some noted that things really began to look good a week earlier, when they barely lost to Holyoke, 28-23.

What defensive lines had an impact on them this season? It depends on who you talk to. Skowrya said Central was the toughest. "They were big." He thought Cathedral was just the opposite. "They were small."

Olson felt Westfield, again because of size, was the toughest defense he faced. Central (the Western Mass AA champion), according to him, was the easiest.

Kimball tabbed the Chicopee defenders tops on his tough list. He agreed that the Cathedral defenders didn't put up much of a fight. Wilson

Rotary Clubs Fete Schoolboy Football Players



THE AGAWAM AND WEST SPRINGFIELD ROTARY CLUBS welcomed players from both Agawam High School and West Springfield High School for a luncheon on Tuesday, November 26th. From left - Agawam Rotary President Michael Grandfield, AHS football Coach Dean Vecchiarelli, AHS Captains Jeff Blews, Bryan Menard, and Phil McGeoghan, West Side Captain Shawn Lyman, West Side Coach Charlie Rousseau, and West Side Rotary President William Reichelt. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

agreed Cathedral was not much of a test. He felt Central and Westfield were quality units.

It was Malachowski who made the definitive statement about who was good and who wasn't. The big redhead agreed Central and Westfield were tough. But the pushovers had to be West Springfield, whom the Brownies whipped 29-12 on Thanksgiving morning.

"We always get so fired up for them that all of us usually play great, like we did that day."

Then he smiled and rubbed a little salt into a wound which will only heal the next time the two teams meet: "They also have the worst football field in Western Massachusetts. Next year, we'll be playing them at the best field around — ours!"

Modzelesky Girls Win Athletic Awards At Suffield Academy

At the Athletic Awards Assembly at Suffield Academy on November 20th, sisters Kristine & Jennifer Modzelesky of Feeding Hills each won varsity soccer letters.

Kristine is a member of the Class of 1997 while Jennifer is a member of the Class of 2000. They are the daughters of Jim & Lynn Modzelesky.

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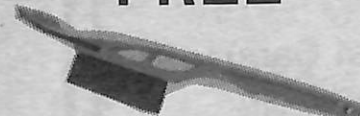


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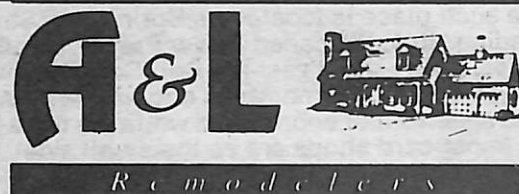
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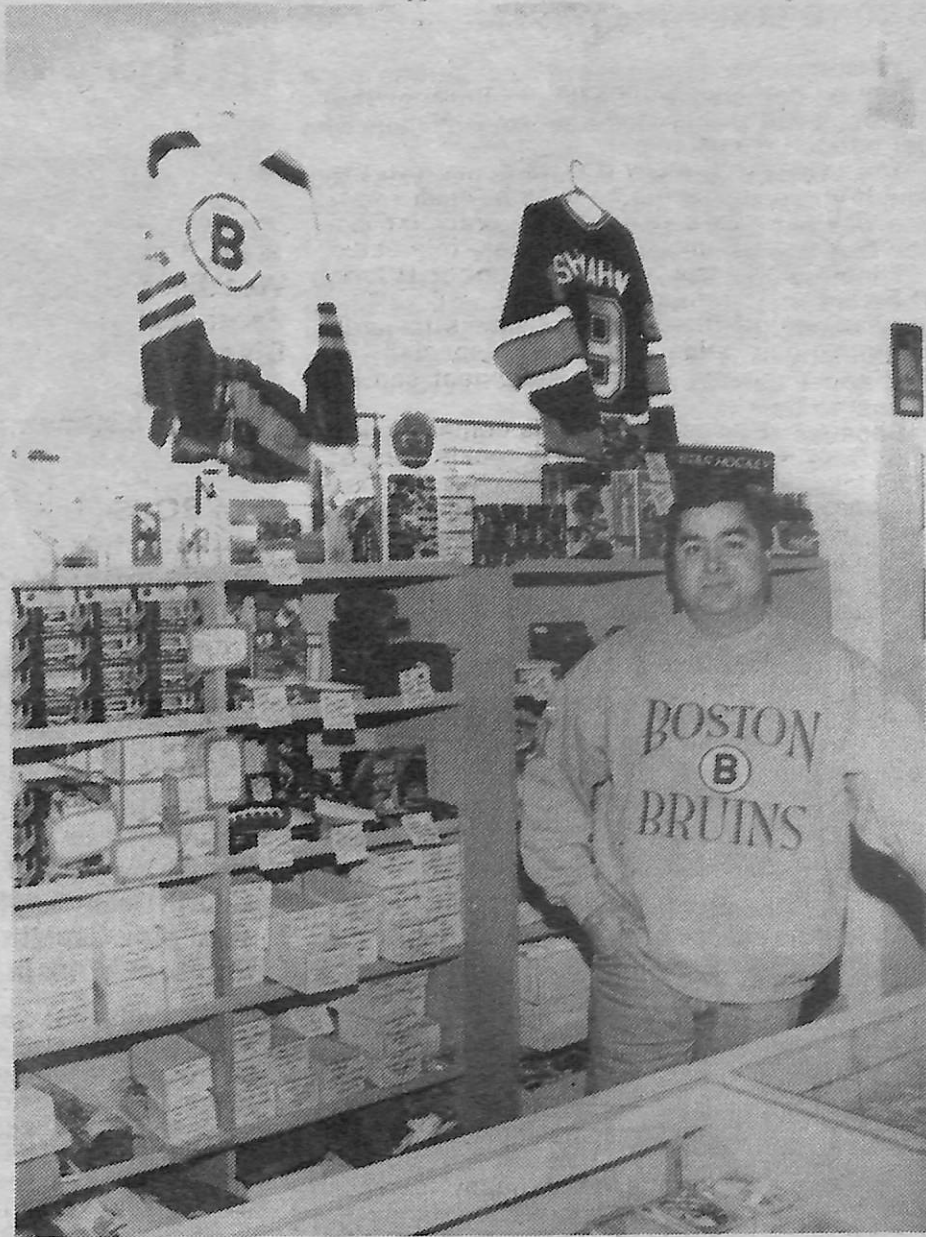
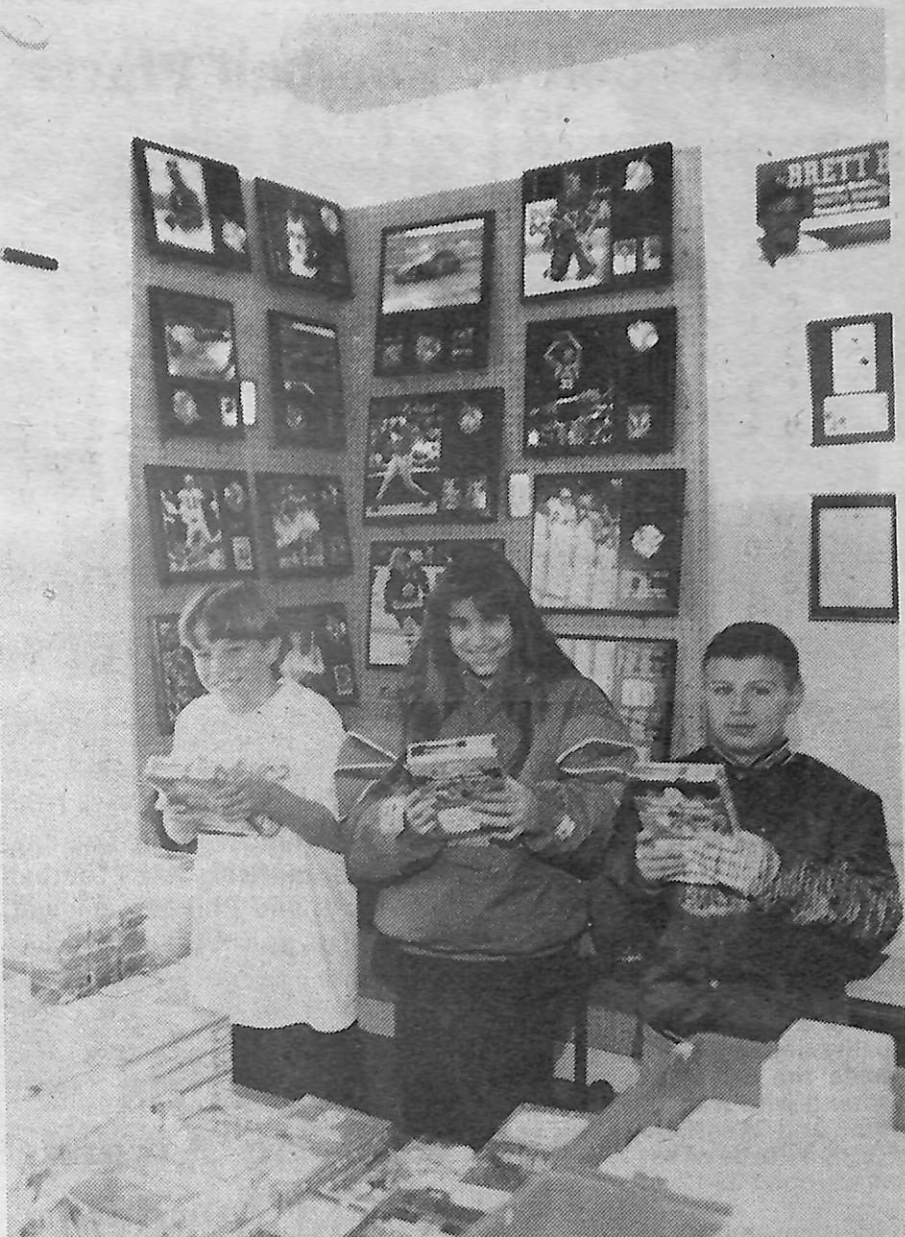
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OVER AT POWER PLAY SPORTS COLLECTIBLES on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills, youngsters Greg Cotto, Nicole Gutowski, and Kyle Turcotte look over some of the sports collectibles available at the store owned and operated by Bob Carestia of Feeding Hills. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Local Sports Card Shop Owner Says Popularity Of Sports Collectibles Is Growing

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Places which cater to people's desire for sports memorabilia are part of the folklore of sports in America. You can find them just about anywhere, offering bits of sports history and memories of glory days gone by and glory days that are with us today.

One such place is located on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. It's called **Power Play Sports Collectibles**. Thirty-three year-old Bob Carestia owns it. It's jammed with memorabilia and articles covering the spectrum of sports. And while it's not a big place (most card shops are on the small side), it's obvious Bob knows his way around the exciting — though sometimes confusing — world of

sports collectibles.

He's been in the business for seven years. He's seen the ebb and flow of fortune as the people who are interested in what he has come and go.

"The business of collectibles picked up a few years ago," he notes. "It has also changed. In the late 1980's and early 1990's, a lot of people became interested for investment purposes. And money can be made that way. But now, it's becoming more of a hobby again."

Then he added, "I think that's the way it should be."

Fall is the time of year that seems to bring most people to the card shops. Bob feels it has a lot to

do with the end of the baseball season. It's a time when many professional players not only add to their bank accounts with good performances during the year, but raise the values of their cards as well. "People's imagination and interest get fired up," he says.

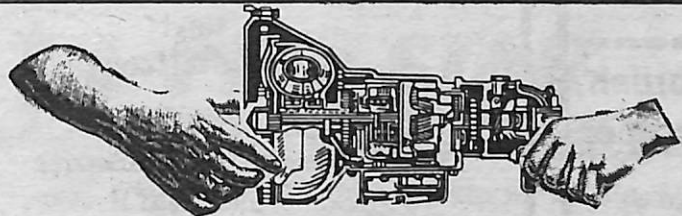
Something For Everyone...

Bob's shop contains something for everyone. But he notes that baseball always seems, year in and year out, to be the best seller. Football is seasonal, which means business is brisk now.

SEE SPORTS CARDS - Page 45...

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SPORT CARDS - from Page 44...

Hockey sells well on a regional basis. Strangely enough, he notes, basketball always seems to be bringing up the rear.

But he adds that many people come into the store looking for anything which deals with former UMass star and current Toronto Raptors member Marcus Camby. They also are interested in memorabilia associated with former UConn star Rebecca Lobo from Southwick.

He has seen a trend in the business towards collectible gear being purchased, especially in football and hockey. Original equipment can be pricey, he admits.

And he's had some pricey cards come through his store as well. "I had a Topps rookie card of Wayne Gretzky which went for \$400. And I've had \$100 cards of Roberto Clemente and Sandy Kofax." He added that such cards are worth so much because they are in mint condition and extremely rare.

He has hundreds of other cards in his shop that run from \$20 and under. They are the ones people find the most enjoyable. He also notes that some of his cards will be worth quite a bit of money as the years roll on because some of the people they depict will end up as stars or in their respective sports' "Hall of Fame."

He cautions that people should do their homework when buying cards. The more a collector knows, the happier he'll be with his cards.

Right now, cards are still the hottest selling item. Then comes autographed memorabilia, followed by the equipment and clothes.

He gave an example of just how much an autograph can increase the value of an item. "I might have a bat used by Mo Vaughn. It would bring anywhere from \$50 to \$75. If it has Mo's authenticated autograph on it, we're talking \$300 to \$400."

Autographs - A Touchy Issue...

Autographs are a touchy issue in the collectible business. Many aren't even close to being authentic. And there's a good chance the happy collector will end up with some star's bogus John Hancock.

Bob has this view on that aspect of the business: "I won't sell anything with an autograph on it unless I got that autograph myself. It is a problem in the business that has to be addressed at all times."

He also recommends that a collector refrain from buying autographed articles from street vendors at the ballpark. "You really won't know what you're getting there," he said. Then he added, "If you are going for autographs, try and get a certificate of authenticity with the item. But, sometimes even those certificates are forged!"

How does a guy in the business of sports collectibles get what he sells? Mostly it's a lot of time on the road. Bob attends all the card shows he possibly can. That's where deals are made and treasures are found, brought back to the shop, and sold to the clientele.

The show circuit is tough but necessary. "I travel all over the East Coast in my van, usually by myself. It can be a long grind sometimes. And it gets expensive. But making money means spending some, too," he added.

He's met some interesting people who've given him autographs and other valuable things. Off the top of his head, he named Ken Griffey Jr., Jose Canseco, Steve Carleton, Joe Namath, Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull, and Muhammed Ali, among others.

And the contacts he's made within the business have served him well when it comes to serving his customers with top-notch items.

He sees the business of collectibles and memorabilia lasting for a long time. "The older cards are becoming more rare as the years go on. There are young stars in every sport who'll provide us with memories we'll always treasure, the same way the guys who went before them did. There's a whole generation coming along who learned what the hobby is all about from their parents and others. There will always be a place for card and collectible shops as long as there are people who love sports."

Power Play Sports Collectibles is open daily. Call Bob at 789-1902.

Games & Lanes Indoor Soccer Leagues

(1st Session: Standings As Of 12/08/96)

U-9 BOYS
West Side Thunder
Westfield Strikers
Panthers
Disasters
Ball Hogs
Agawam Lightning

W L T P
4 0 0 8
2 1 1 5
2 1 1 5
2 2 0 4
1 3 0 2
0 4 0 0

U-14 BOYS
Easthampton
Westfield United
Agawam Hawks
Palmer

W L T P
4 0 0 8
3 1 0 6
1 3 0 2
0 4 0 0

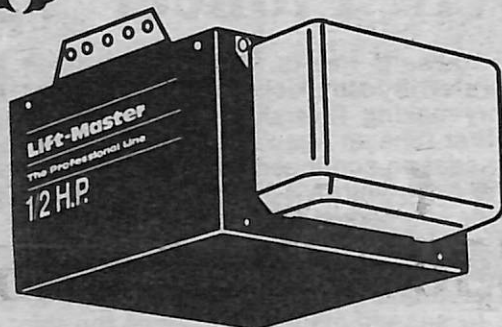
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
Bruno's
Easthampton
Westfield Berzerkers
Holyoke S.C. Green
Holyoke Blue Knights
Holyoke S.C. Gray
Agawam Intown 1
Agawam Intown 2

W L T P
4 0 0 8
3 1 0 6
3 1 0 6
2 1 1 5
1 2 1 3
0 2 2 2
1 3 0 2
0 4 0 0

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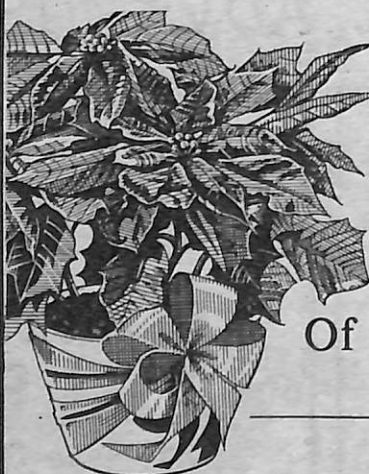
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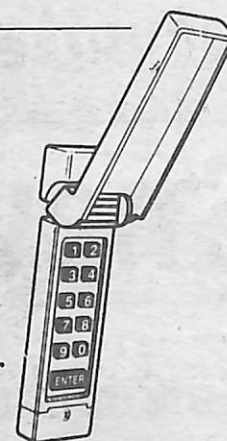
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Premier Parks Affirms Commitment To Riverside Speedway

A few days after announcing plans to purchase Riverside Amusement Park and Speedway, Premier Parks, the nation's fourth largest regional theme park company, affirmed its commitment to continue the long-standing NASCAR racing tradition at Riverside Park Speedway.

"The Carroll family has built Riverside Park Speedway into one of the finest racing venues in New England," noted a representative of Premier Parks. "Its loyal following of racing enthusiasts can be assured that Premier Parks intends to build upon the past achievements and explore opportunities for improving the facility and enhancing the overall racing program and experience."

"I am excited about the possibilities that exist with Premier Parks," Edward Carroll, Jr., said. "The company has a keen understanding of family entertainment and clearly sees the extraordinary contribution the Riverside Speedway makes to the Amusement Park and the area."

Premier Parks and Carroll said a nationwide search to find a proven auto racing director to oversee and manage the various operations of the track is underway. "The search will be extensive and we will be diligent in our pursuit to identify the right person," commented Premier Parks representatives.

"The great racing fans, drivers, sponsors, and volunteers at Riverside deserve the very best. Their unwavering support has been the backbone that has kept this Speedway moving forward for many years. The best days for the Speedway and Amusement Park lie ahead," Carroll said.

Specific facility improvements and program enhancements were not announced. Premier Parks and the Carroll family are evaluating a number of possibilities at this time, and both Premier Parks and Carroll said the year's race card would open in mid-April.

Riverside Park Speedway and Premier Parks' officials will host an informational meeting on Monday night, December 16th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Oaks Banquet House, 1070 Suffield Street, Agawam, to discuss the 1997 Race Program, as well as many other topics. Space is limited; therefore, we ask that only the regular Saturday night divisions (Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Late Models, and Strictly Stocks) be represented by their respective owners and drivers. However, media members are also welcome to attend.

Premier Parks owns and operates 10 regional theme parks and water adventure parks located in nine different geographic markets.

The company's properties are Adventure World Theme Park, between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland; Darien Lake Theme Park and Camping Resort, between Buffalo and Rochester, New York; Geauga Lake, Cleveland, Ohio; Wyandot Lake, Columbus, Ohio; Frontier City and White Water Bay theme parks in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Elitch Gardens Amusement Park, Denver, Colorado; Waterworld USA water adventure parks in Concord and Sacramento, California; and the Great Escape and Splashwater Kingdom Theme Park in Lake George, New York.

Premier Parks is a publicly held company (NASDAQ:PARK) with corporate offices in New York City and Oklahoma City.



MEMBERS OF THE U11 Agawam Soccer Association Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League Hawks, the 1996 playoff champs. Back row - Coaches Steve Gonyea, Judy Gonyea, and Nick Alfano. Standing - Brenton Reveruzzi, Paul Suroweic, Rich Gonyea, Andrew Oleksak, Chris Holl, Matt Hayden, Sam Young, and Santino Alfano. Kneeling - Niel Donah, Alex Seymour, Mike Alfano, Nick Gumlaw, Jason Quigley, and Casey Federico.

Agawam Hawks U11 Boys' Soccer Win Pioneer Valley Soccer Crown

The Agawam Hawks, a PVJSL Division One boys' under 11 team, kicked off their season with a history-making Riverside Classic Tournament — the first time an Agawam boys' team has won.

Their season continued on a positive track, finding the boys with a 4-3-0 record at midseason. Not to be dismissed, their play dramatically improved as the season progressed.

The Hawks emerged from the Windsor, Connecticut Columbus Day Tournament with a 3-0-2 record, in second place by virtue of the third tie-breaker goal scored. The team only allowed one

goal against them throughout the tournament.

By the end of the season, the Hawks had improved their record to 10-4-0 and qualified for post-season play. Held at Gateway Regional High School, post-season play found the team defeating both the second- and then the first-place teams in their age division. The Agawam Hawks emerged victorious in first place.

The coaches would like to congratulate the boys on their fine season, and to thank the parents for their dedication and support of the team.

Games & Lanes Indoor Lacrosse Leagues

(1st Session; Standings As Of 12/07/96)

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Minnechaug
Longmeadow
Agawam 2
Agawam 1
Westfield 1
Westfield 2

W L T P
4 0 0 8
3 1 0 6
2 2 0 4
2 2 0 4
1 3 0 2
0 4 0 0

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

McWear Lacrosse
Minnechaug
Westfield 2
Soatstone Scorpions
South Hadley
Westfield 3
Windsor

W L T P
5 0 0 10
4 1 0 8
2 2 0 4
2 2 0 4
2 2 0 4
1 4 0 2
0 5 0 0

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Tracking Snow Should Help Success Ratio

Early snow has provided Massachusetts deer hunters with ideal tracking conditions. In addition to revealing recently traveled routes and relative sizes of the animals, it serves as a dampening blanket to soften the sound of our own footsteps.

Opening day results were off somewhat, probably due to the miserable rain and cold. Fewer hunters in the woods was probably the single most factor in lower than expected harvest numbers.

Time To Sharpen The Ice Auger

Even though safe ice is yet a ways away, it's about time to make sure that your ice augers are sharpened and ready for the upcoming ice fishing season. Don't wait until your buddy calls and wants to go the next day. If you send your blades out to get sharpened, you may have to wait for several days or more.

Dust off your tip ups and replace that old line that may have weakened over time. While on the subject of line, a word of caution is in order for ice fishermen. Those new super braid lines, such as Spider Wire and Fireline, are a great aid to sensitivity and "feel." There is one drawback to this type of line for ice fishing, and it has nothing to do with their fish-catching suitability.

These new "stronger than steel" lines can cut through flesh faster than a chainsaw through butter. This is probably not a problem when icing a 12-inch perch, but a good bass or northern pike is capable of making a strong run.

If this happens while you are retrieving line hand over hand, you could be in store for line cuts like you have never imagined. Even your gloves

and mittens will not offer much protection.

A big northern stripping line could make handling some of these "super braids" like grabbing onto a band saw.

As of this writing, there is no safe ice in the area. Make sure of your ice thickness before venturing out. Just because one or two people are out there jigging, does not mean that the ice is safe for the added weight of a couple more people. Better safe than sorry.

Enjoy our New England winter safely. Send your stories and trophy pictures to the paper and perhaps we will see you in print.

Fish Reports

Although most of the party boats have headed to Florida for the winter, some are still plying the North Atlantic. Cod have moved closer in shore and are providing some action for the cold weather anglers. Look for a party boat with heated cabins and heated rails if you can find one.

Fresh water fishing is almost at a standstill due to the "almost ice" conditions on area ponds. The Connecticut River is ice free, but flood swollen. Oh, well! Maybe next week?

Tri-Parish Rollers Off & Running As Second Round Of 1996-'97 Opens

St. Michael's left off right where they did after capturing the Round One championship in the opening week of Round Two in the Monday night Tri-Parish Bowling League. St. Mike's took four wins over second place Catholic University (3 wins) to jump off on the right foot.

St. Mike's winners were leadoff TAMMY VOGEL (269, 85.16 in Women's C) and Captain JERRY ALLEN (331, second in Men's Open at 122.2). Jerry defeated his chief rival, BILL "Black & Blue" GRAY (329), the overall league leader by a hair at 122.20. There was tons of pressure in this match-up and both rollers didn't pile up the big numbers.

Winning for CU were second roller CORI NAPOLITAN (311, 96.27 in Women's AA) and third roller FRANKIE CERPOVICZ (300, leads Men's B at 101.8).

Over on Lanes 7 & 8, third place St. Anselm (3 wins) took it to last place St. Mary (0 wins) in a clean sweep. St. Mary's winners were leadoff

MAUREEN LYNOSKY (270, 94.1 in Women's A), BOB "The Beastmaster" BURKE (367, 106 in Unclassified), and Captain RICH SNYDER (343, 110.13 in Men's AA). Famous St. A's Captain "Luscious" LOU MULDER hit a strong 335 in a losing effort (105.12 in Men's AA). The only winner for St. A's was third roller DON "Don't Sit On" STITT (313, 105.28 in Men's A).

Rolling well in a losing effort for St. A's was MAYBETH "Miss Consistent" COUGHLIN (313, new leader in Women's A at 95.14 - go Maybeth go!).

On Lanes 1 & 2, sixth place Holy Cross (1 win) and seventh place Fordham (1 win) faced-off. HC winners were MARSHA DOBIE (315, leads Women's C at 86.10) and "Wild" BILL ALDRICH (289, 95.5 in Men's B). Fordham winners were JOHN LONCRINI (308, 103.9 in Men's A) and Captain "Jollie" OLLIE MULDER (333, 108.2 in Men's Open). "Jollie" barely defeated the challenge of HC Captain PAULA BURKE, our famous assistant town treasurer over at Town

Hall (327, new leader in Women's Open at 111.3).

Fourth place St. Louis (3 wins) met ninth place Boston College (1 win) on Lanes 3 & 4. BC had a clean sweep in this one - leadoff DORIS FORTIER (241, leads Women's B at 89.12), DAVEY "Boy" ALDRICH (351, leads Men's C at 93.22), BILL "10 Carat" DIAMOND (333), and Captain "Jungle" JIM MCCORMICK (299, 100.11 in Men's A). "Jungle," despite not hitting 300, was delighted to defeat a disappointed GLEN "Not Sam" ADAMS (293, leads Men's AA at 117.12).

In the final match of the night, fifth place Notre Dame (3 wins) faced eighth place Georgetown (1 win). ND winners were leadoff LISA LINDSEY (276) and VENETTA SNYDER (290, 94.21 in Women's A). G-Town winners were LANCE POIRIER (395 in a substitute role; his balls just explode off the lanes) and Captain "Wilder" BILL GRIFFIN (337, leads Men's A at 109.21). "Wilder" defeated ND Captain FLO ROCHFORD (329, 103.14 in Women's Open).

EARLY DEADLINE: The deadline for our Christmas edition is Sunday, December 22nd, at noon. We are also open all day on Saturday, December 21st. Please publicize your early January events in this edition. If we can help, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137. We will be taking gift subscriptions up until Monday, December 23rd. Stop by the office or call us.

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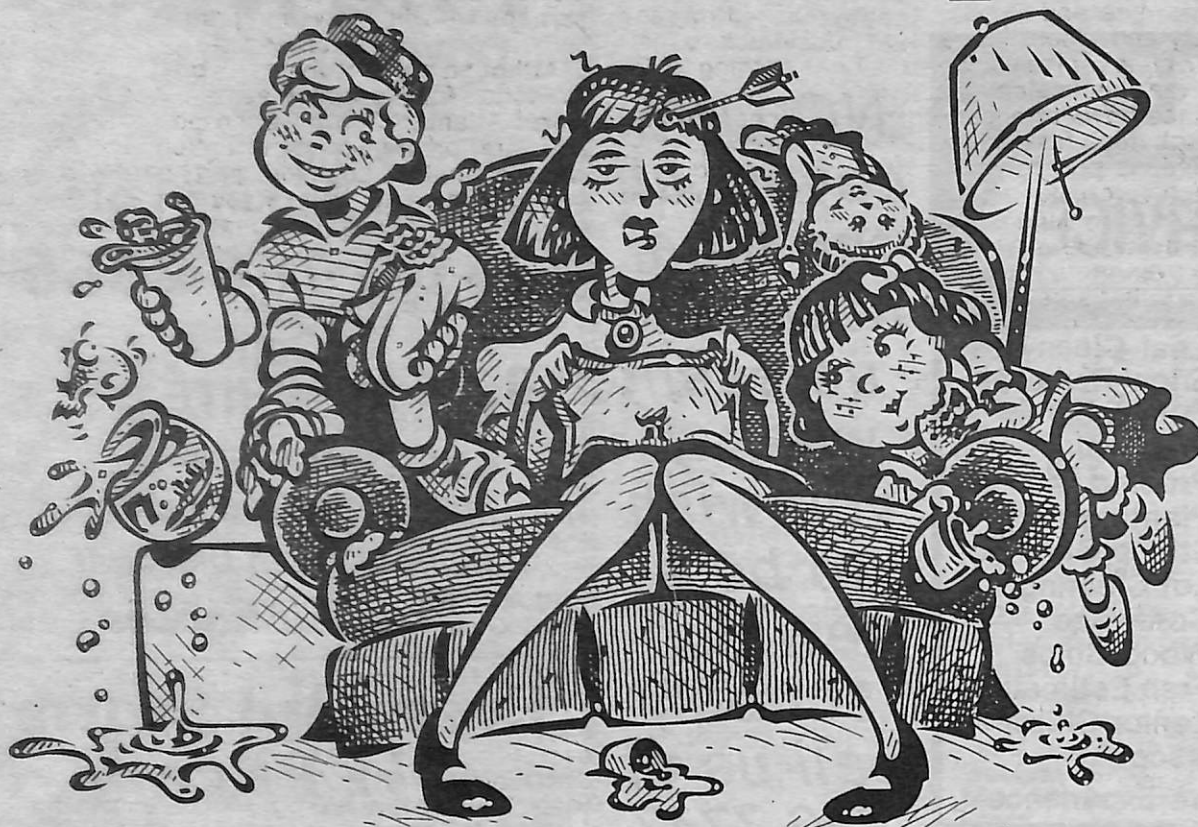
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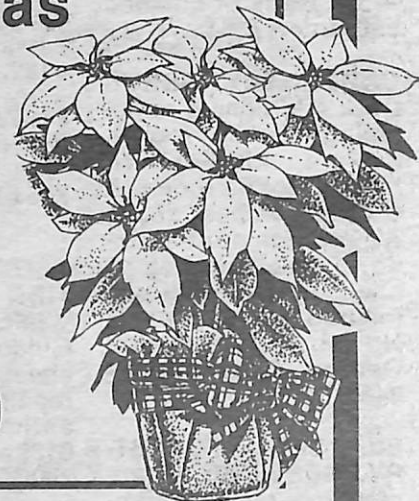
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